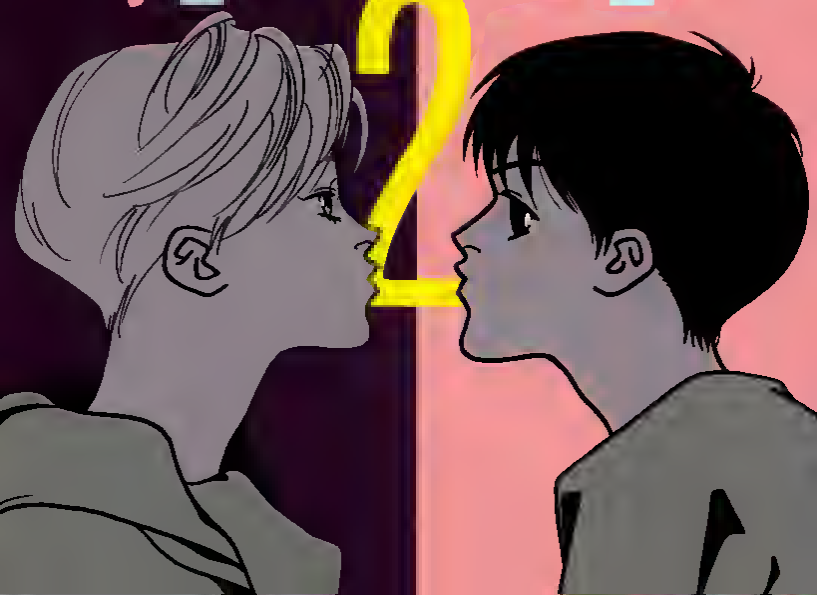
ASUKA COMICS DELUXE

ぼくたち男の子

2

SHOKO KONAMI
こなみ詔子



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ぼくたち男の子 2

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CONTENTS

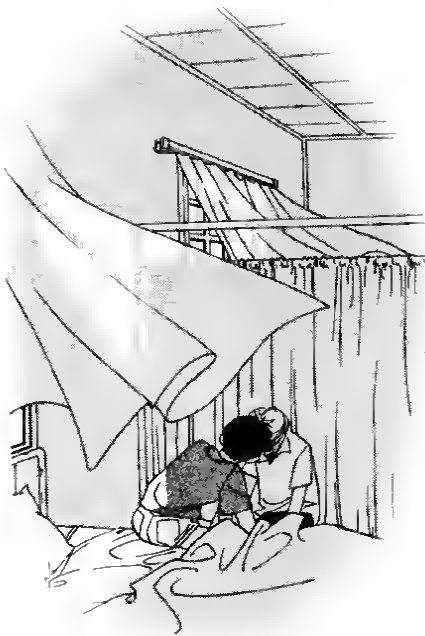
TAMIO

馳せ民たみ夫お

Tamio attended an elementary school nestled between mountains and rivers, in an area filled with nature. Then, a half Caucasian boy from the city named Fujii Takashi transferred to the school! But despite the boy's appearance, he couldn't speak English and his favorite food was natto with green onions. Still, while the discrepancies in Takashi's appearance surprised Tamio, the two quickly became friends. Tamio found even more reason for surprise after his first sleepover at Takashi's house. Takashi's mother was a Kansai-ben speaking foreigner, and his father looked so young that Tamio mistook him for Takashi's little brother. All the while, amidst this heart-warming cultural exchange, Tamio begins to have unique feelings for Takashi.

TAKASHI

藤ふじ井い敬たか士し



SCENE
5

BEYOND THE REACH OF MY HANDS
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE FEELINGS OF A MAN

THE POINT TO WHICH
THEY'VE COME.

BY HIROMI GO

日本音楽著作権協会(出)許諾第9302237-301号

There are kotatsu and mandarin oranges
1月
2月
Winter break is always fun ♪
And the kerosene stove gives off a nice smell ♪
(Song lyrics by Tamio)

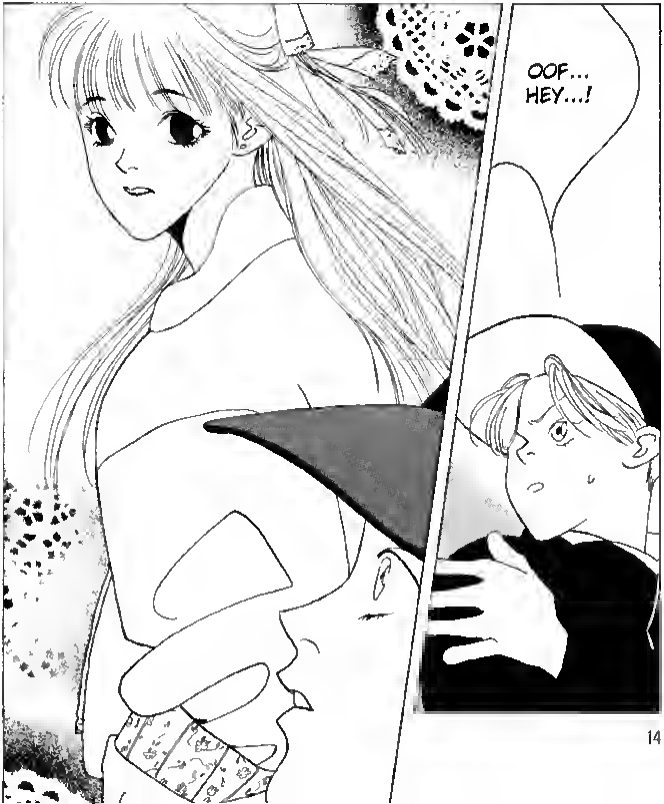
Note- kotatsu ~ As you can see in the picture a table with a heat source beneath it and a futon or heavy blanket on top to keep the heat in. Since most Japanese housing has no central heating, kotatsu are a comfy and cheap way to keep warm in winter, though of course this makes one reluctant to move.

ぽるるるる!
ring
ring
ぽるるる
ring
ぽるるる
ring
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET IT, HONEY?
BUT YOU'RE CLOSER TO IT THAN I AM.
WOULD ONE OF YOU HURRY AND PICK IT UP BEFORE THEY HANG UP!
ぽるる
ぽる
DOUBT THEY WILL.
GEEZ..
チャッ☆

I'M COMING HOME TOMORROW!
CLICK
booop~
booop~
booop~
ばえっ
ACK!
...IT WAS SIS.
Thought so!

SOME-
THING
YOU
GUYS
MIGHT
NOT
KNOW?
THE TRAIN
STATION KIOSKS
ARE THE FIRST
TO PUT NEW
MAGAZINES ON
SALE!
ぴゅ
きっぷうりば
Mum
this is
great
JUMP

"
とん
bump


OOF...
HEY...!

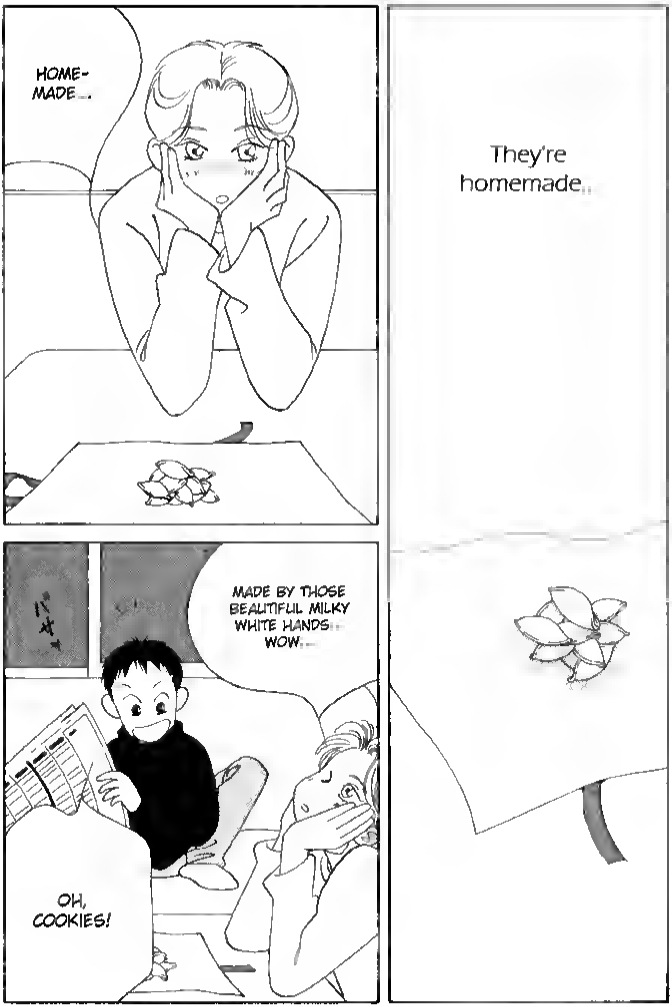
She...
ARE YOU OK? YOU AREN'T HURT, ARE YOU?

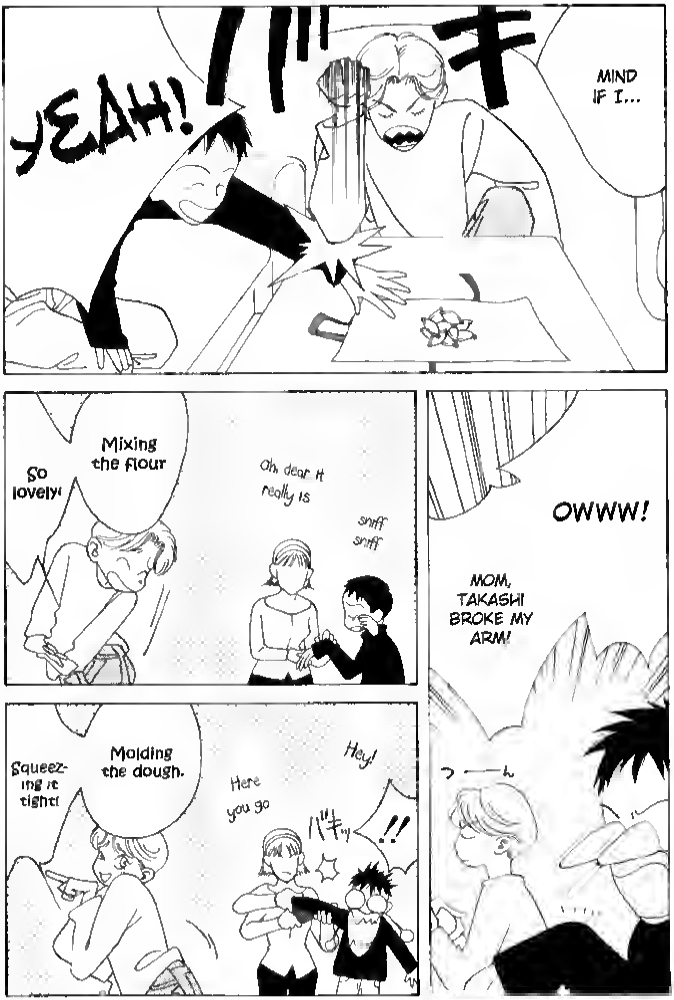
HERE YOU GO.
SHE'S TOTALLY CUTE!
SIS~
T-Thank...
BA-DUMP

SORRY I'M LATE. THE BUS WAS SLOW, SO..
TAMIO.
SO YOU'RE THE—ER, I MEAN,
SO YOU MUST BE TAMIO-KUN'S SISTER?
OH, TAKASHI. WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK KINDA STIFF.

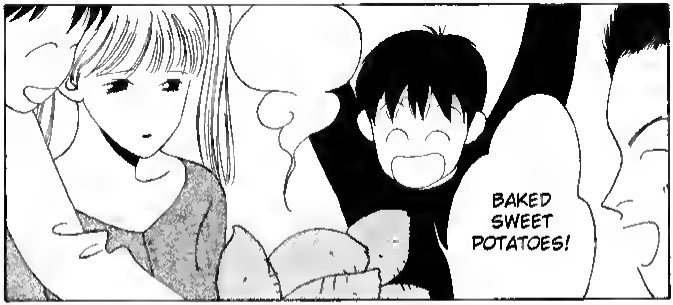
TAMIO... IS THIS A CLASSMATE OF YOURS?
....!?
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU I'M TAMIO'S OLDER SISTER NATSUKI
AH... YEAH...
She's acting awfully funny...

カ
BLUSH
ーーーっ
I...
I'M FUJII
TAKASHI...
FUJII-KUN.
YOUR EYES...
THEY'RE
BLUE
TAKASHI'S
HALF CAU-
CASIAN
OH, HOW
WONDERFUL!
Well, I was
just born
that way
after all.
OH, HERE
YOU CAN
HAVE SOME
OF THESE IF
YOU LIKE.
THEY'RE
HOME-
MADE.

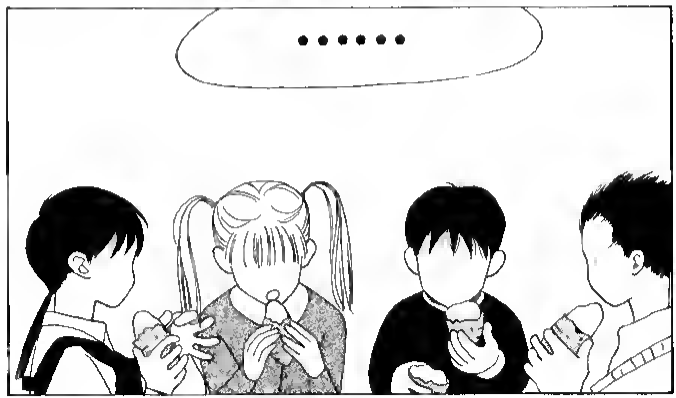

HOME-
MADE...
They're
homemade...
MADE BY THOSE
BEAUTIFUL MILKY
WHITE HANDS...
WOW...
OH,
COOKIES!


YEAH!
MIND IF I...
Mixing the flour
So lovely!
Oh dear it really is
sniff sniff
Molding the dough.
Squeezing it tight!
Here you go
Hey!
!!
OWWW!
MOM, TAKASHI BROKE MY ARM!

I CAN'T JUST EAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
OOH~

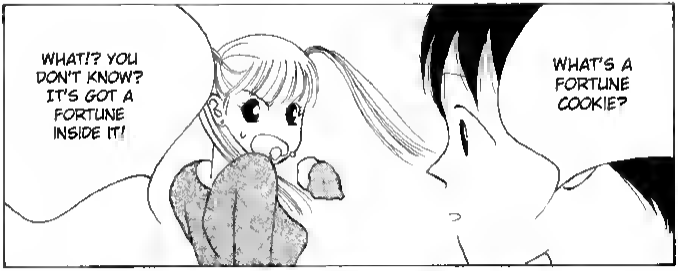

BAKED SWEET POTATOES!

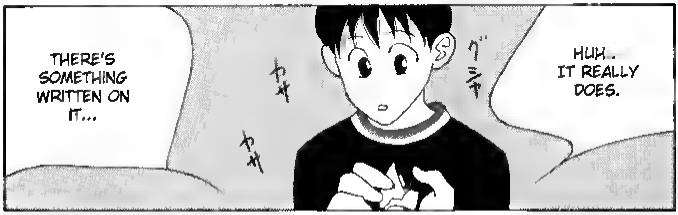
LET'S EA...


.....

GEEZ, WHO WAS THAT? HOW CAN YOU FART RIGHT BEFORE WE ALL START EATING...
TOO BAD! IT WAS ME!
ケキン
DON'T GO WHINING YOUR ASS OF WHEN I'M ON ONE OF MY FEW VACATIONS BACK HOME!

A-ARE THEY REALLY HOMEMADE?
HERE.
OH, YEAH. YOU WANT SOME OF THESE TOO?
HER SURFACE IS SO UNLIKE WHAT'S REALLY IN THERE.
Ow
You talk really well with your mouth full
BEHOLD, NATSUKI'S SPECIALLY MADE FORTUNE COOKIES!!!
OF COURSE THEY ARE!

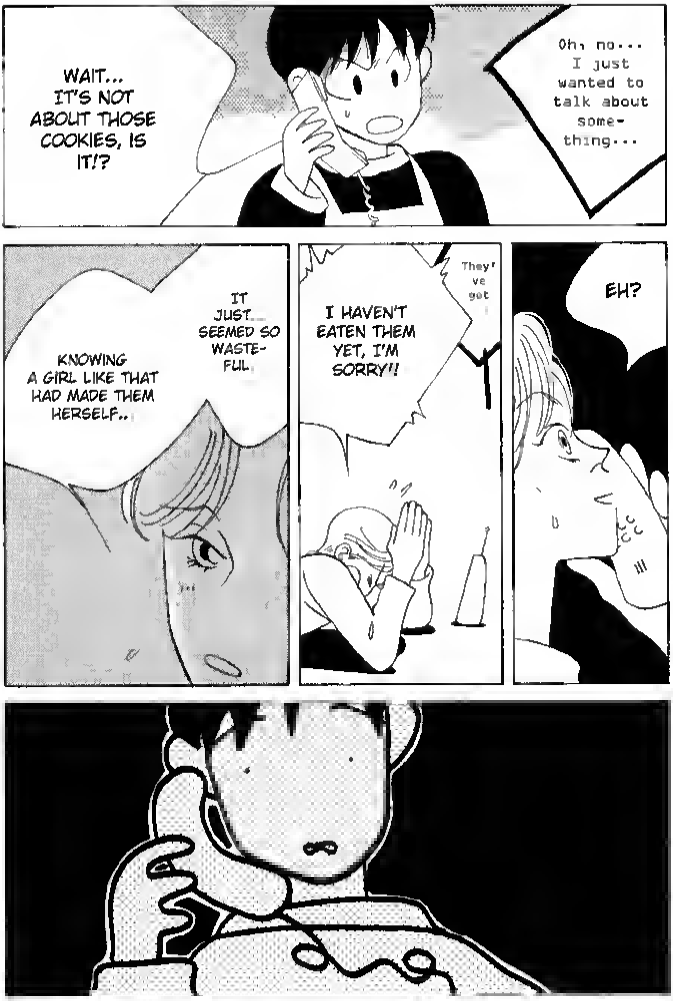

WHAT!? YOU DON'T KNOW? IT'S GOT A FORTUNE INSIDE IT!
WHAT'S A FORTUNE COOKIE?


THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT...
HUH.. IT REALLY DOES.

.....
This is a misfortune cookie. If you don't make ten more of these and distribute them to ten more people within the next ten days, I'll kill you. Dumbass.

TAMIO PHONE
AFTER I LOOKED FORWARD TO WINTER BREAK FOR SO LONG... MAYBE SHE WON'T STAY TOO LONG.
はぁ～～～
KYAHA-HAHAH!
うっ
うっ
COME ON, MOVE IT.
はぁ～
OW!
...YES?
Tamio?
チャ

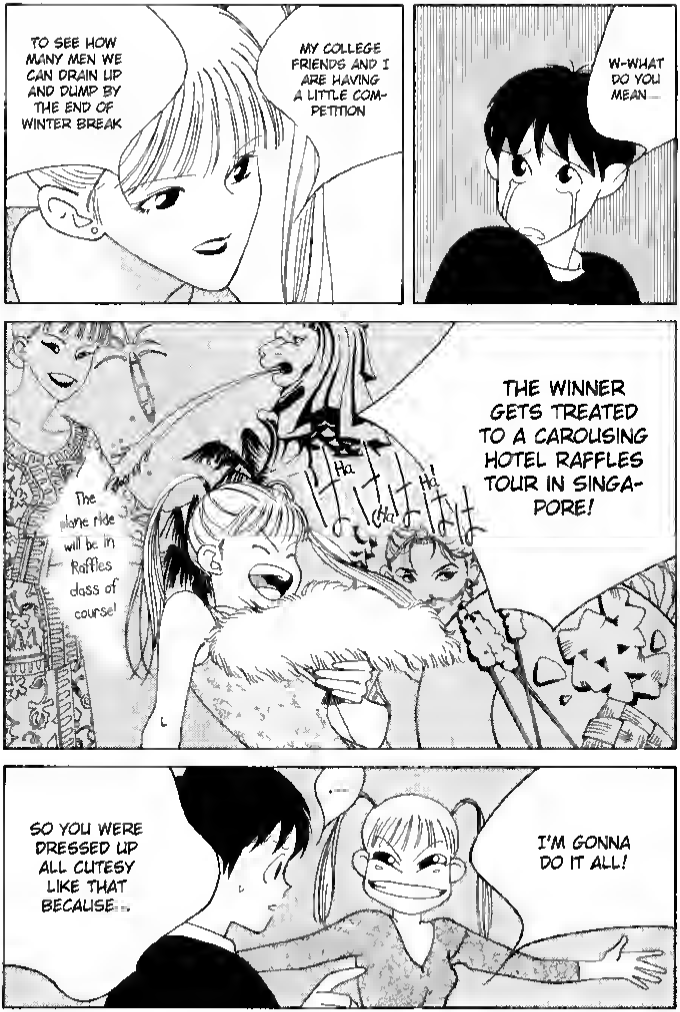
And your sister?
...H-HOW ELSE WOULD I BE?
T-Takashi?
bokumu bokumu
S-SO... YOU DOING GOOD?
UH... HER TOO, I GUESS
MY... SISTER?
Yeah.
Is something the matter?
AH, COOL...


WAIT... IT'S NOT ABOUT THOSE COOKIES, IS IT!?
Oh, no... I just wanted to talk about some-thing...
IT JUST SEEMED SO WASTE-FUL
KNOWING A GIRL LIKE THAT HAD MADE THEM HERSELF..
They've got
I HAVEN'T EATEN THEM YET, I'M SORRY!!
EH?

But I just start feeling so wasteful, my chest gets all tight... and I just can't do it.
Usually I'd just eat something like that right away.
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
I'VE BEEN FEELING KIND OF FUNNY
What do you mean by...
I I THINK..
T-Takashi... Are you feeling alright? Maybe you've been eating a little too much during the break, or...
I think I might have a thing for your sister.

It...It's still not too late. If I turn him down before he can talk to her...
You think you could ask her for me?
I've got these tickets to the amusement park. I was wondering if your sister might want to come.
Y-YOU KNOW, MY SISTER...

Seriously!? Ten o'clock tomorrow at the ○× amusement park, then!
click
SHE... SHE'LL COME.
エ!?
!!!
FUHU HU.
YOU... DON'T THINK YOU'RE JUST A BIT TOO CRUEL TO YOUR ONLY BROTHER?
AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER SHOULD STILL COUNT...

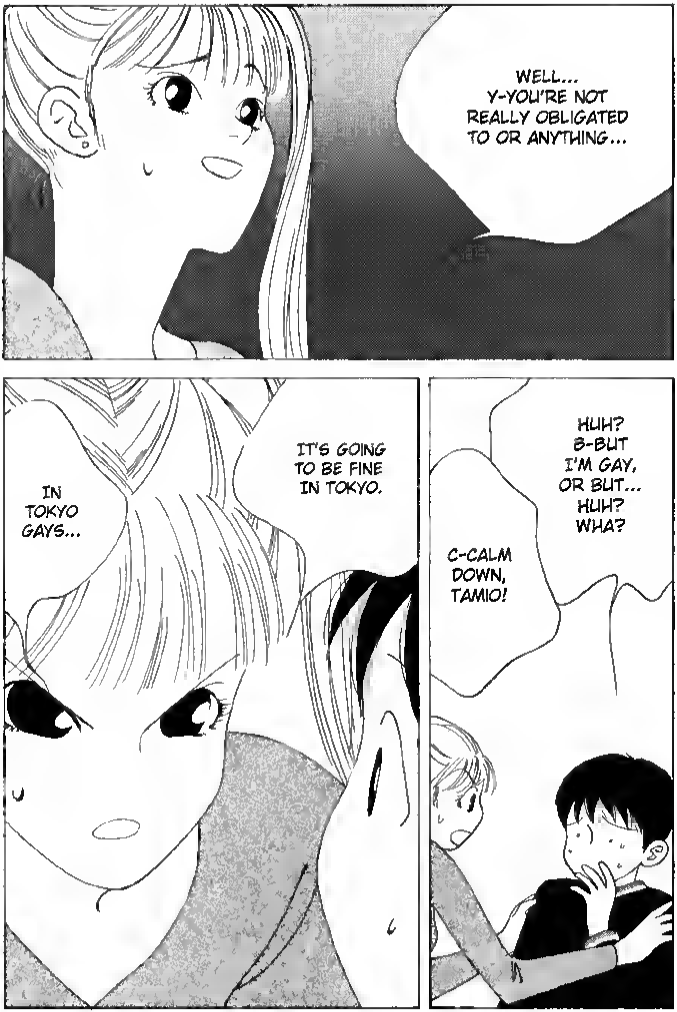

TO SEE HOW MANY MEN WE CAN DRAIN UP AND DUMP BY THE END OF WINTER BREAK
MY COLLEGE FRIENDS AND I ARE HAVING A LITTLE COMPETITION
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
THE WINNER GETS TREATED TO A CAROUSING HOTEL RAFFLES TOUR IN SINGAPORE!
Ha
Ha
Ha
The plane ride will be in Raffles class of course!
SO YOU WERE DRESSED UP ALL CUTESY LIKE THAT BECAUSE...
I'M GONNA DO IT ALL!

SOMETHING MORE SEDUCTIVE GETS PLENTY OF GUYS TO APPROACH YOU, BUT IT MAKES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A QUICK FUCK.
IT'S THE BEST LOOK FOR SNARING THEM IN.
NOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT...
Y-YOU DON'T LAY A HAND ON TAKASHI!!!
AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER ISN'T EVEN MATURE ENOUGH FOR THAT KIND OF THING. SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY

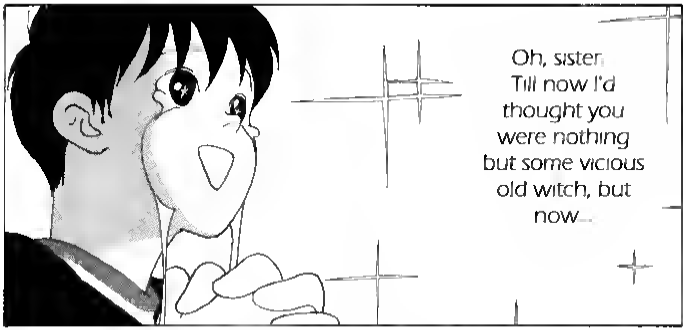
...WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
AH, NO— THAT WAS JUST—
NO WAY, YOU...
はっ
DO YOU LIKE TAKASHI...?

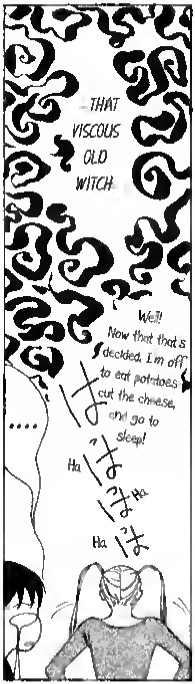
YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU? THAT MAKES YOU GAY, YOU KNOW!
I-I...
GAY...?

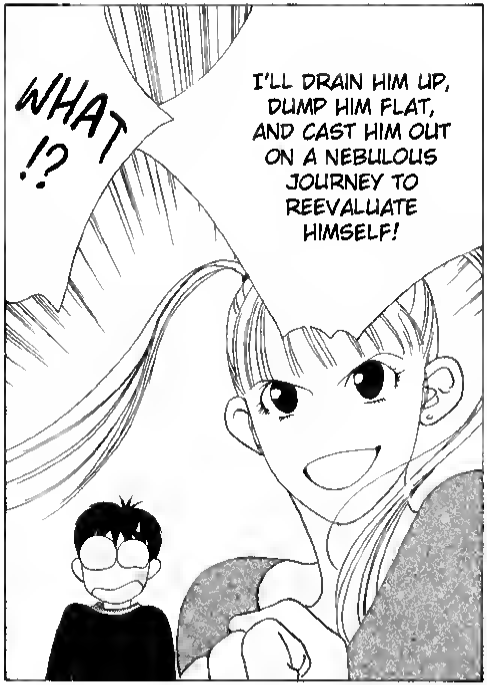
YEAH, THOSE GUYS ARE GAY, BUT...
YOU MEAN THOSE GUYS WHO ARE GUYS BUT DRESS LIKE GIRLS?
WELL...
DOES THAT MEAN I'M GOING TO HAVE TO START DRESSING LIKE A GIRL FROM NOW ON!?


WELL... Y-YOU'RE NOT REALLY OBLIGATED TO OR ANYTHING...
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE IN TOKYO.
IN TOKYO GAYS...
HUH? B-BUT I'M GAY, OR BUT... HUH? WHA?
C-CALM DOWN, TAMIO!

Take heart!
GAYS ARE TOTALLY FASHIONABLE.
ALRIGHT! BIG SISTER IS GOING TO LEND YOU HER HELP!
Is that what being gay means ?
I do like Takashi, but...
I SEE... TO THINK THAT MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS GAY...


Oh, sister. Till now I'd thought you were nothing but some vicious old witch, but now...

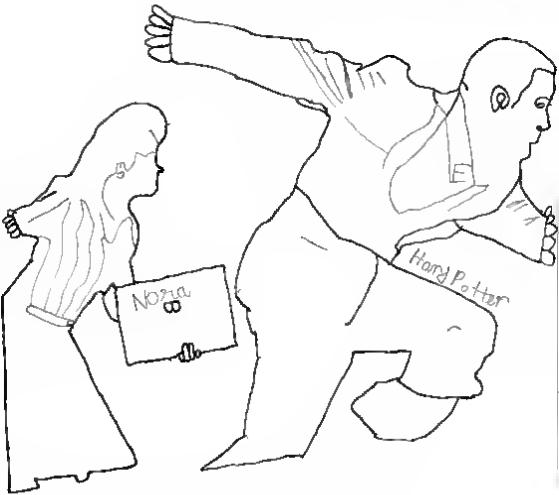

...THAT VICIOUS OLD WITCH.
....
Well! Now that that is decided, I am off to eat potatoes cut the cheese, and go to sleep!
Ha
Ha
Ha


WHAT!?
I'LL DRAIN HIM UP, DUMP HIM FLAT, AND CAST HIM OUT ON A NEBULOUS JOURNEY TO REEVALUATE HIMSELF!

SCENE·5——END

amber loVE PJ

Scanned, Translated, and
Edited by HarwoodLoveTellin



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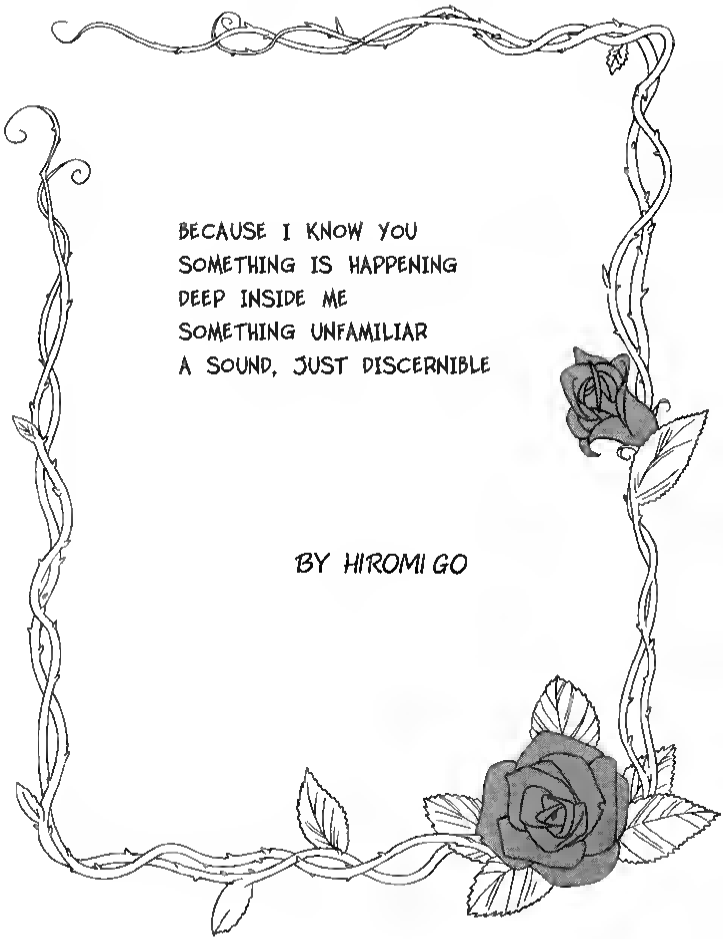
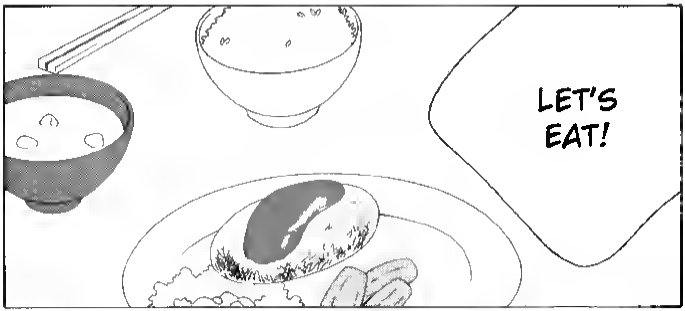
SCENE
6



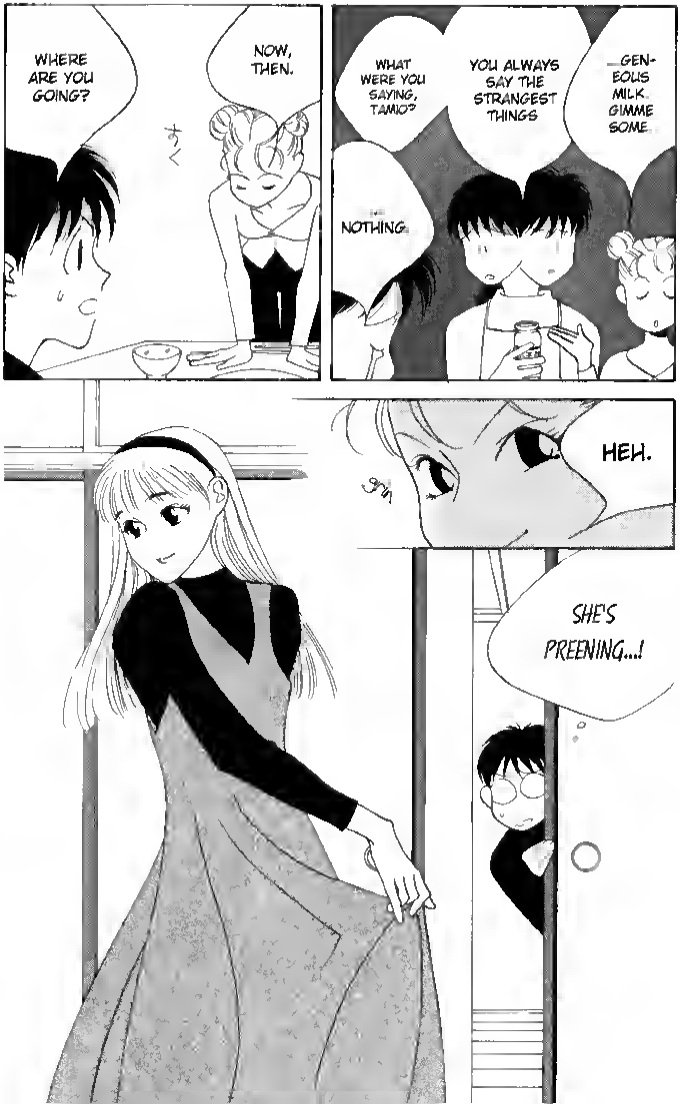
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING
DEEP INSIDE ME
SOMETHING UNFAMILIAR
A SOUND, JUST DISCERNIBLE

BY HIROMI GO

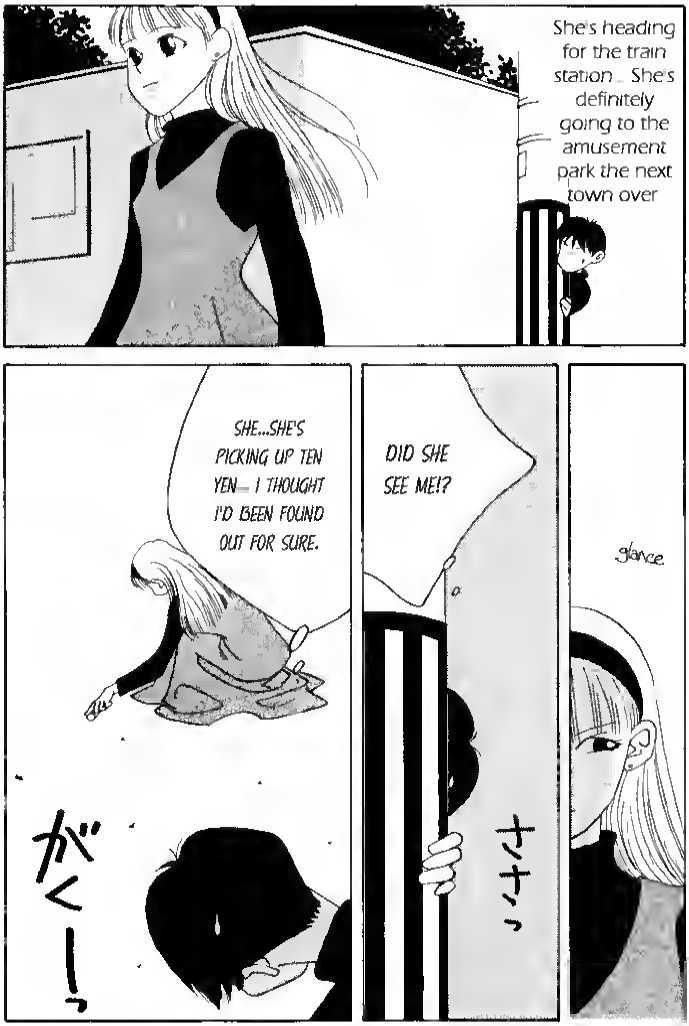

LET'S EAT!

ｶﾁｬ
ｶﾁｬ

SHE JUST WHAT?
MO~M! SIS, SHE JUST...!
AAAH!
HOMO.


NOW, THEN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU ALWAYS SAY THE STRANGEST THINGS
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, TAMIO?
NOTHING.
HEH.
SHE'S PREENING...!

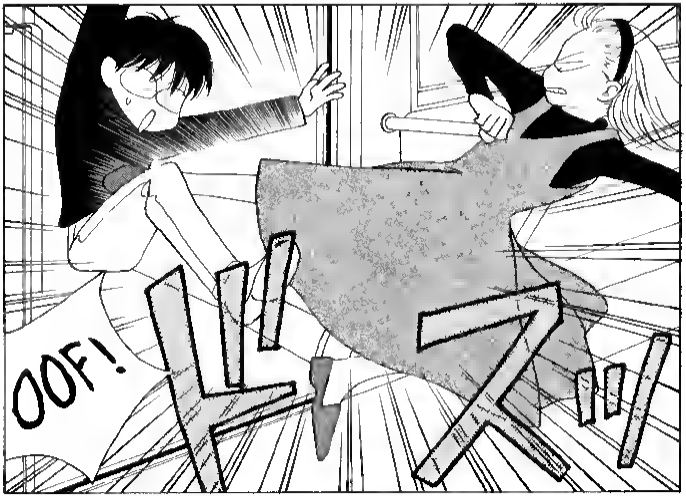
Damn her. She's a college student!
She's really going to go on a date with Takashi.
Natsuki's clothes
I THINK I MAY HAVE AN IDEA.
HEH HEH HEH
アルバム
Album
I'LL DRAIN HIM UP, DUMP HIM FLAT, AND CAST HIM OUT ON A NEBULOUS JOURNEY TO REEVALUATE HIMSELF!
Is what she says, but isn't she really just doing it for kicks?


She's heading for the train station... She's definitely going to the amusement park the next town over
glance
DID SHE SEE ME!?
ナナっ
SHE...SHE'S PICKING UP TEN YEN... I THOUGHT I'D BEEN FOUND OUT FOR SURE.
がくーっ

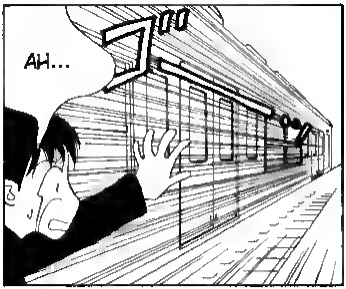
TAKASHI-KUN.
Automatic Ticket Dispenser
She's pretty late
I'M SORRY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?

HUH? WE'RE NOT IN ANY RUSH...
WELL, WE'D BETTER HURRY.
YOU'RE LOOKING VERY PRETTY TODAY.
OH, NO... I JUST GOT HERE.
Oh, my!
JUST LIKE A HALF! SO DIRECT!
The way he talks.
grab
blush
...R-RIGHT! WE'D BETTER GET GOING!

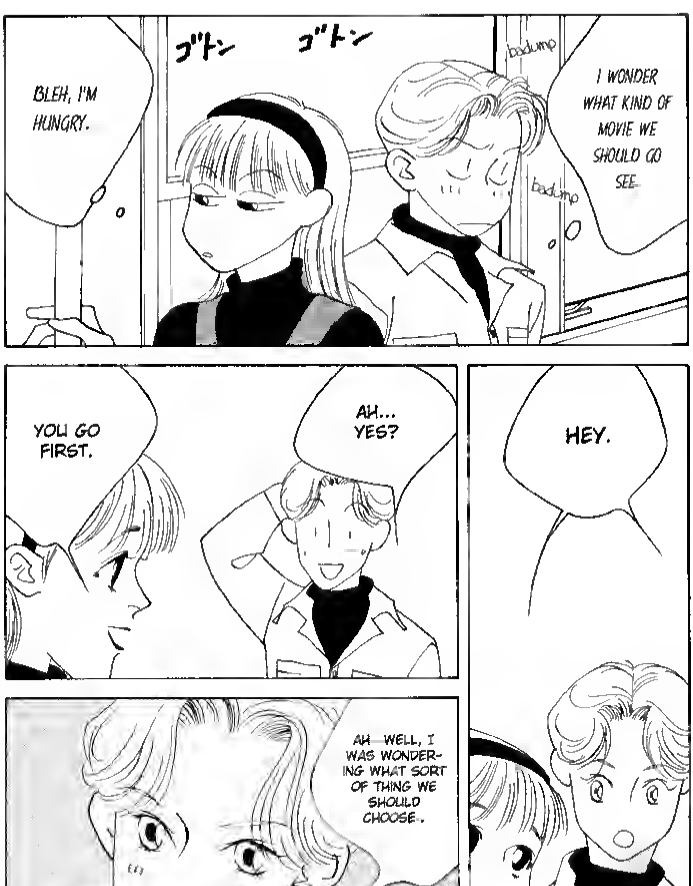
ugh
ugh
Crap! I'm losing them!
Hee
Hee
OH, LOOK AT THE ADVERTISE-MENT ON THE WALL HERE.
EH?

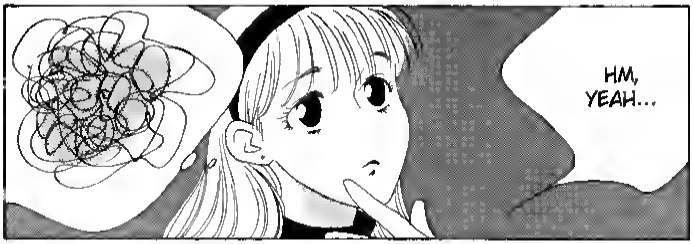

OOF!

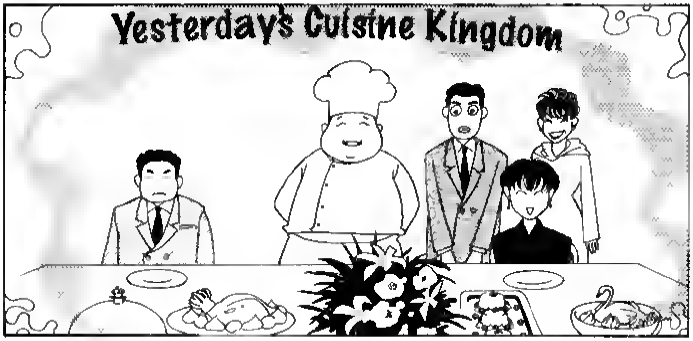
YOU MUST BE HEARING THINGS.
I SWEAR I HEARD TAMIO'S VOICE JUST NOW...

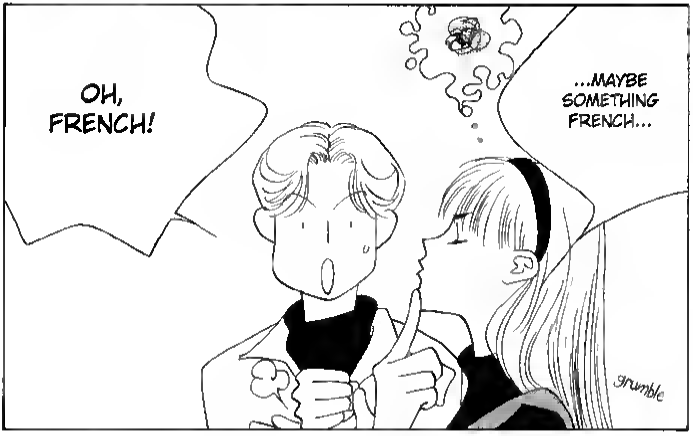

AH...

I WAS FOUND OUT—.


BLEH, I'M HUNGRY.
ゴトン ゴトン
badump
badump
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MOVIE WE SHOULD GO SEE.
YOU GO FIRST.
AH... YES?
HEY.
AH... WELL, I WAS WONDERING WHAT SORT OF THING WE SHOULD CHOOSE.



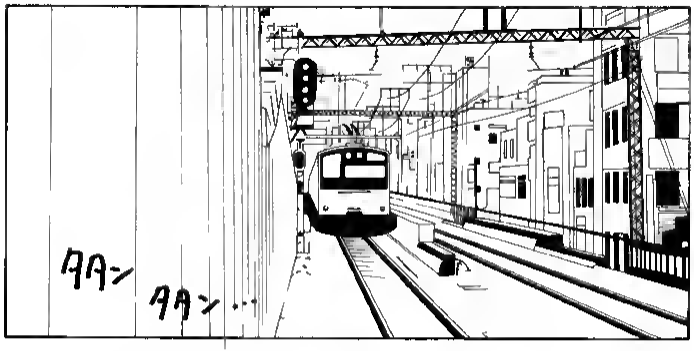




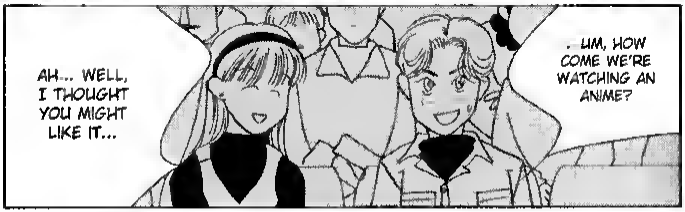
Note Cuisine Kingdom ~ A cooking variety show that ran from 1975 to 1992

SINCE YOU'RE HALF CAUCASIAN YOU MUST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE SUBTITLES, HUH TAKASHI-KUN?
UH...
Ah, I see
A French movie
Baguette
Eiffel Tower
Françoise Morechand here! Non, non, no-n! Kiyoshi-san?
TAKASHI, HAVE SOME TAKOYAKI
Come to think of it, I've never even heard my mom speak English, have I?
She's like some tourist

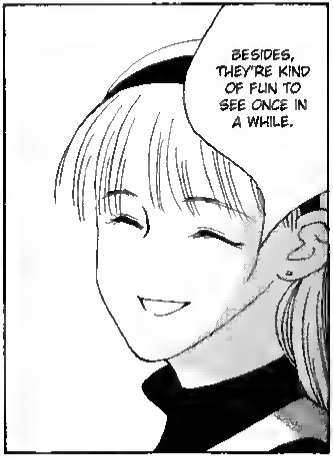
Note: Francoise Morechand - An adviser and essayist on French lifestyle in Japan // Kiyoshi-san - I am not sure, but this may be referring to Hasegawa Kiyoshi (1891-1980) a Japanese artist and engraver who spent most of his life in France // Takoyaki - Fried dumplings with octopus inside, served with seuce. Considered one of the signature foods of the Kansai region where it can be eaten as a side dish, though in most areas it is considered a snack.

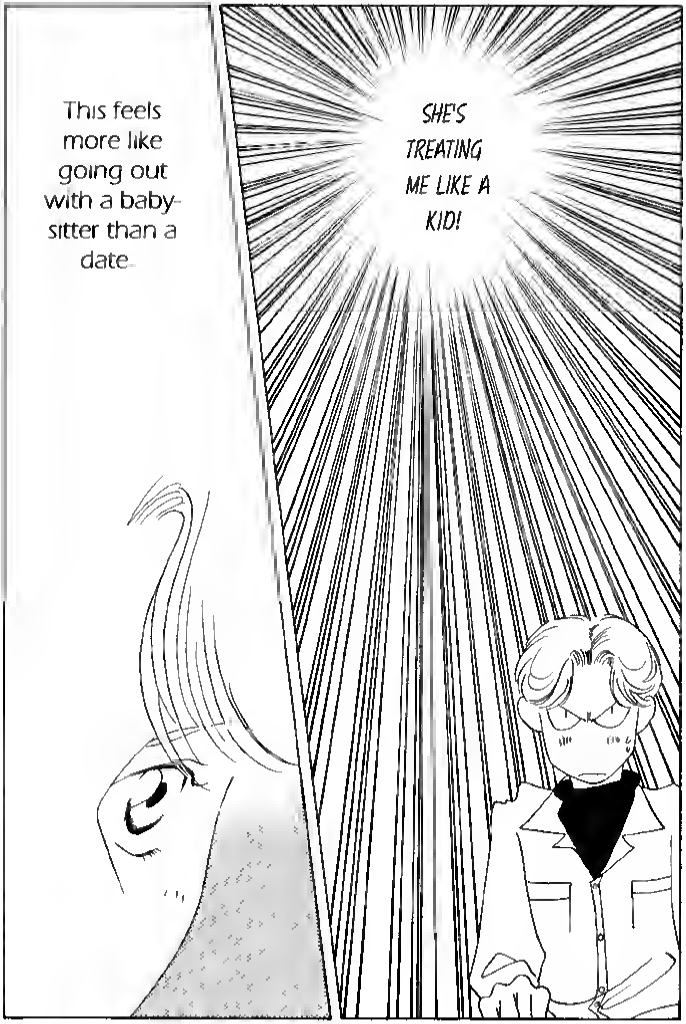

ガタン ガタン…

This is getting tough, though I knew it would be…
But so long as I can show him this picture…
AAH, MY SIDE…


AH... WELL, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT...
. UM, HOW COME WE'RE WATCHING AN ANIME?

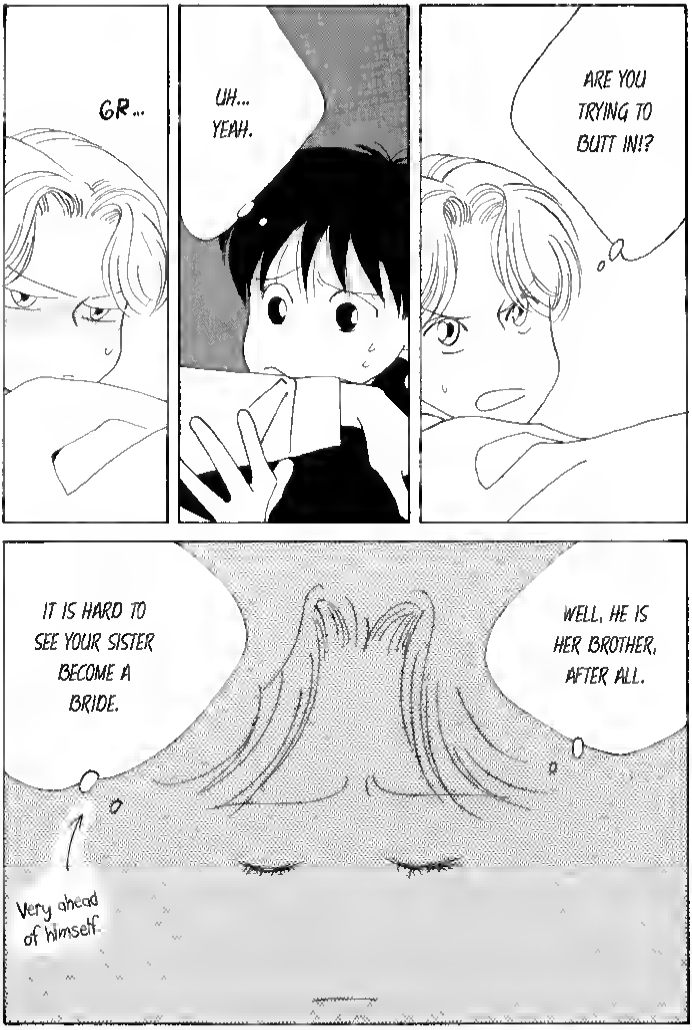
AH...
You don't think...

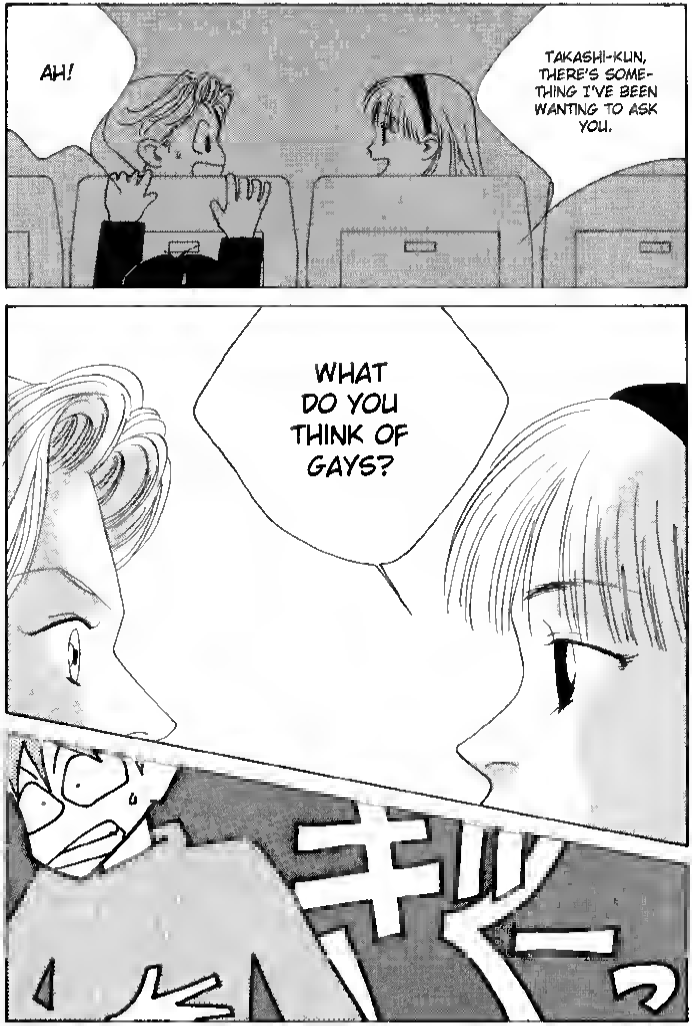

BESIDES, THEY'RE KIND OF FUN TO SEE ONCE IN A WHILE.


This feels more like going out with a baby-sitter than a date.
SHE'S TREATING ME LIKE A KID!

Ok...
I need to hold her hand
Aah. I think I cried a little...
HAA~ HAHA! THAT'S TOTALLY PRICELESS!
Hahh!!
CRASH!
BANG!

Her shoulder then
CRUNCH!!!
TA... TAMIO... What are you doing here?
MUNCH MUNCH


GR...
UH... YEAH.
ARE YOU TRYING TO BUTT IN!?
IT IS HARD TO SEE YOUR SISTER BECOME A BRIDE.
WELL, HE IS HER BROTHER, AFTER ALL.
Very ahead of himself.


AH!
TAKASHI-KUN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GAYS?
キィーっ

GAYS?

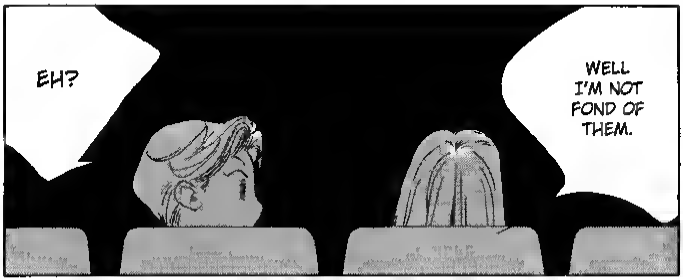
YOU MEAN... THOSE GUYS? NOT LIKE HAPPY PEOPLE...

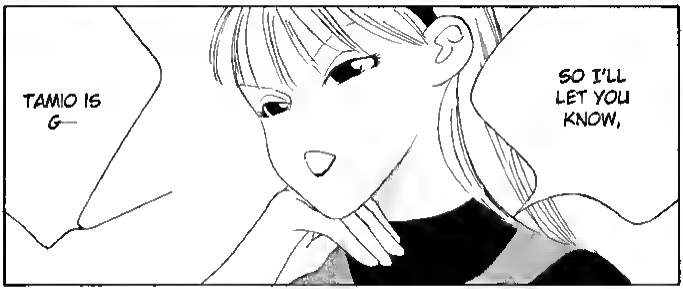
AH... SORRY!

STILL... IT'S NOT LIKE THEY DO IT AS A HOBBY OR SOMETHING.
WELL... THEY'RE DEFINITELY UNSETTLING...
TAKE THAT, TAMIO!
kehehe

I DON'T THINK IT'S REALLY OUR PLACE TO START TALKING SHIT.
PEOPLE ARE FREE TO LOVE WHOEVER THEY LOVE.

T-Takashi...

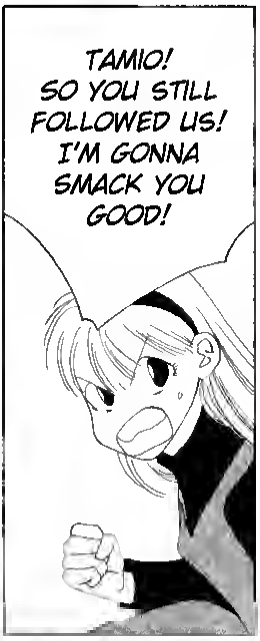

EH?
WELL I'M NOT FOND OF THEM.

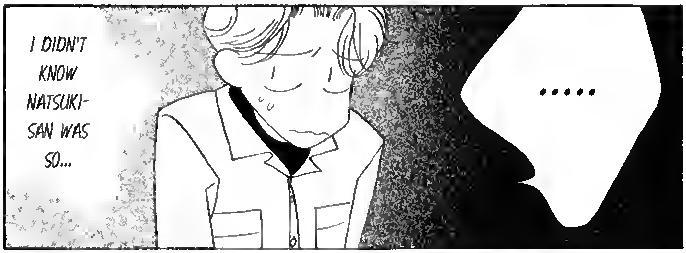

TAMIO IS G—
SO I'LL LET YOU KNOW,

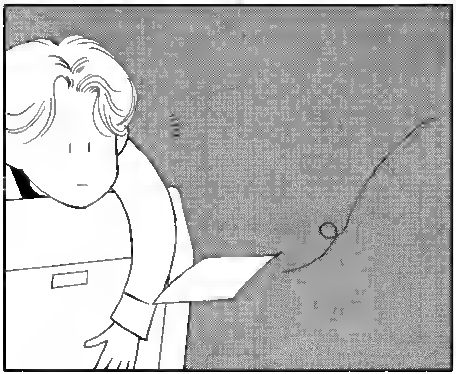
Sister~!!!
Bleh

DON'T BE A JERK, SIS!
SSSH!
SSSH!
You guys settle down!

How's a reject like you even manage to find us!? Hm? C'mere!
Uwaa!
...N-NATSUKI-SAN?
ドスッ
リカ


TAMIO! SO YOU STILL FOLLOWED US! I'M GONNA SMACK YOU GOOD!

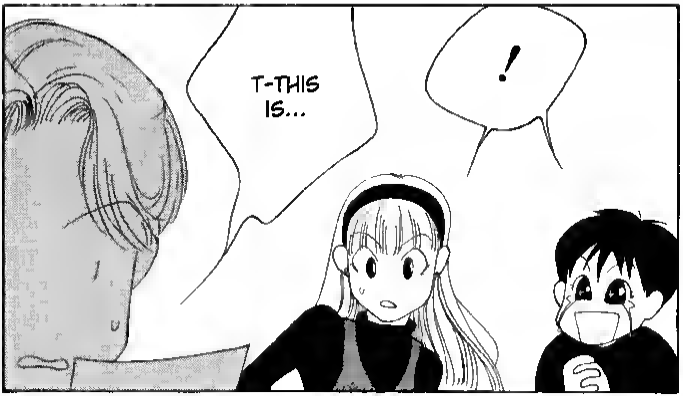




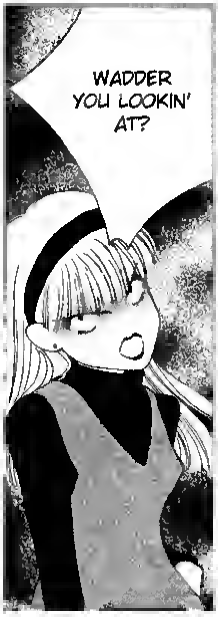
That she would fight with her sibling and talk like that...

What's
this...

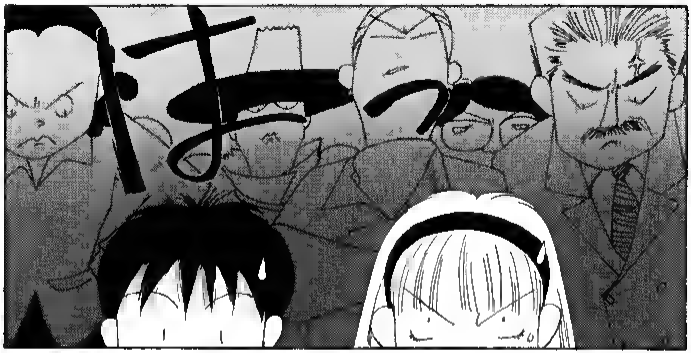
Note — The look of Natsuki and her friends is typical of "Ladies" or female bosozoku, a Japanese subculture associated with teenage motorcycle gangs who have a reputation for aggression and delinquency. The gangs were also common recruiting grounds for the yakuza (Japanese mafia).


T-THIS IS...
!

ブン


WADDER YOU LOOKIN' AT?

IT.. IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S...
THE HELL IS THIS!?
Where do you think you're going!?



As for me, I was chastened by the moviegoers and my sister. The wounds took a month to heal and are still a little sore

Aah...

After that, Takashi's feelings for Natsuki cooled off

IT WAS JUST A DREAM... JUST LET ME FORGET IT

SCENE·6——END

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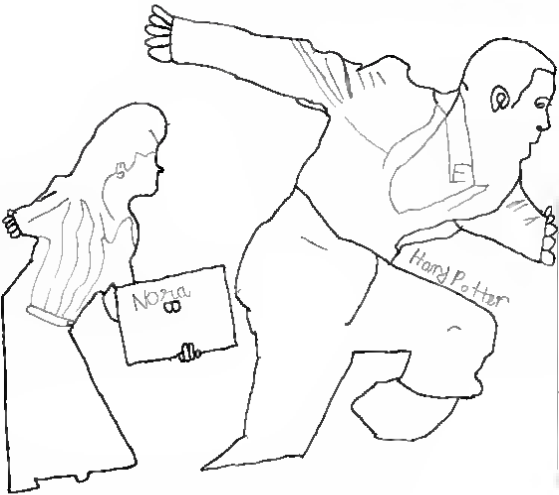

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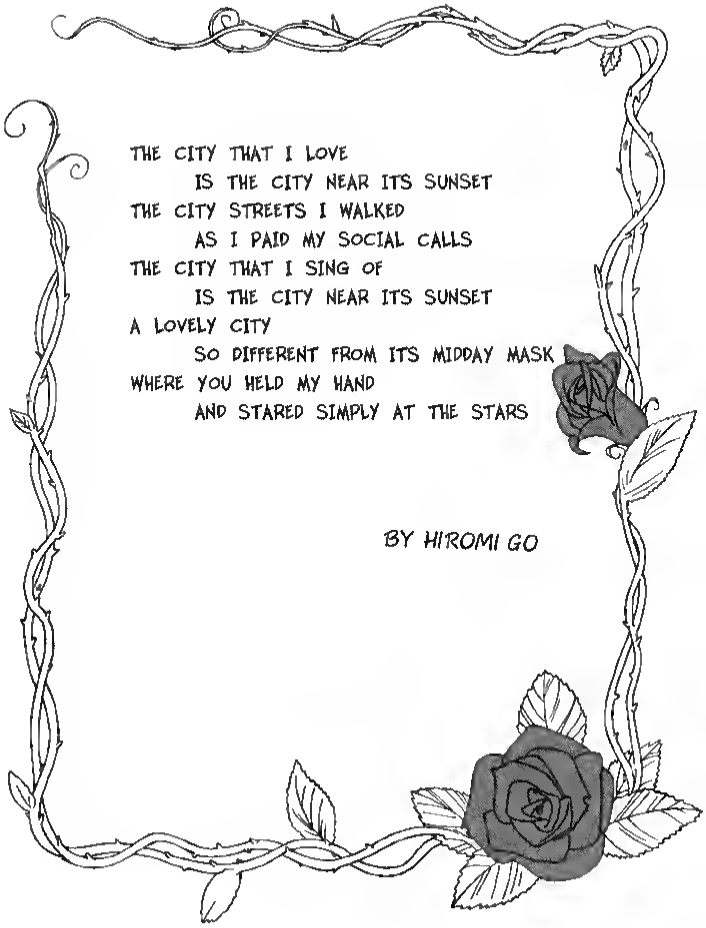
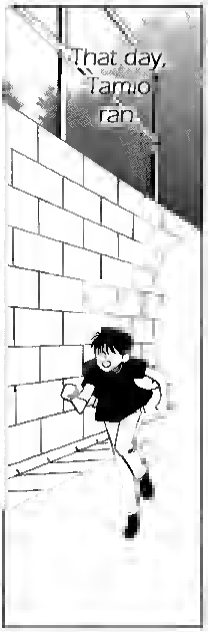
SCENE 7

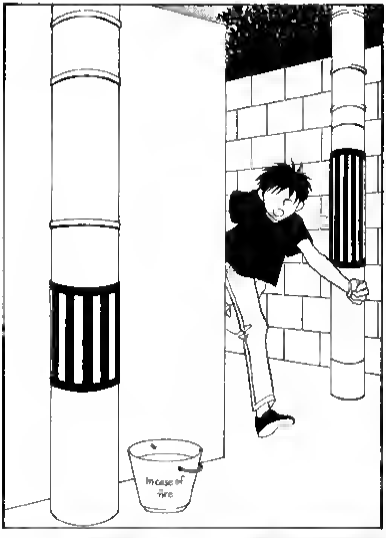


THE CITY THAT I LOVE
IS THE CITY NEAR ITS SUNSET
THE CITY STREETS I WALKED
AS I PAID MY SOCIAL CALLS
THE CITY THAT I SING OF
IS THE CITY NEAR ITS SUNSET
A LOVELY CITY
SO DIFFERENT FROM ITS MIDDAY MASK
WHERE YOU HELD MY HAND
AND STARED SIMPLY AT THE STARS

BY HIROMI GO

It was a run that had yet to grace the footrace of the school field day.


That day, Tamio ran.


In case of fire

And this was because Tamio was in danger of being late!
SSSP!

OH!
In case of fire

AH!

YOU CAN CATCH A COLD FROM STANDING AROUND ALL WET, EVEN IN THE SPRING.
HEY, YOU LITTLE BRAT! THAT'S FUCKING COLD.

HEY!
SO WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE, KIDDO? HM?
IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING WE MIGHT CATCH PNEUMONIA

UM...
THE CHILLS ARE COMING ON!
OOOH!

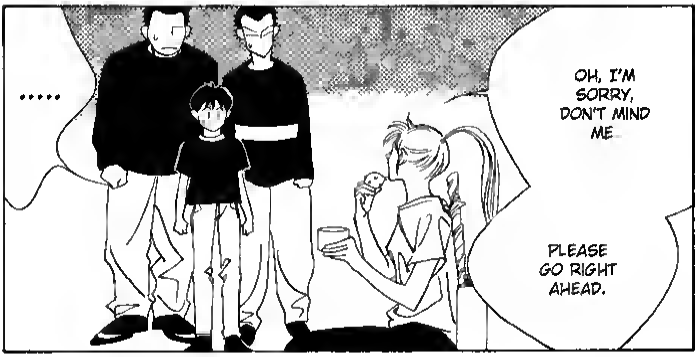
HUH?
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW IF THE FUJII HOUSE IS AROUND HERE?
AH...
I KNOW WHERE IT IS!

YEAH, SURE I WILL!
YOU DO? WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING ME?
YEAH!?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING HIM!? WE'VE STILL GOT BUSINESS WITH THAT LITTLE BRAT!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WIK,

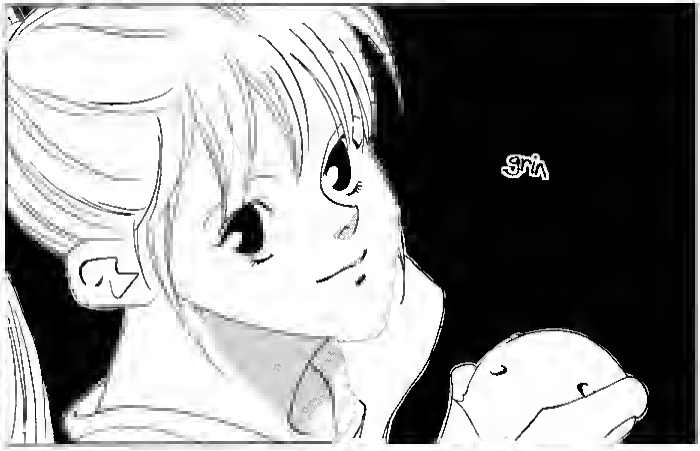
OH, YOU DO?
...R-RIGHT. WHATEVER.
YEAH!
!?
THEN PLEASE, GO AHEAD. I CAN WAIT, SO TAKE YOUR TIME.

MMM...
SO KID, WHERE DO YOU LIVE? YOU'RE GONNA PAY UP FOR ALL MY CLEANING AND DOCTOR BILLS.
glug
glug
glug
DROOL
THESE ARE SO GOOD! MAME DAIFUKU REALLY ARE GREAT!

Note: Mame Daifuku - Daifuku are mochi (glutinous rice cake) stuffed with sweet red bean filling. Mame daifuku is a variety that has beans mixed in with the mochi.


.....
OH, I'M SORRY, DON'T MIND ME...
PLEASE GO RIGHT AHEAD.

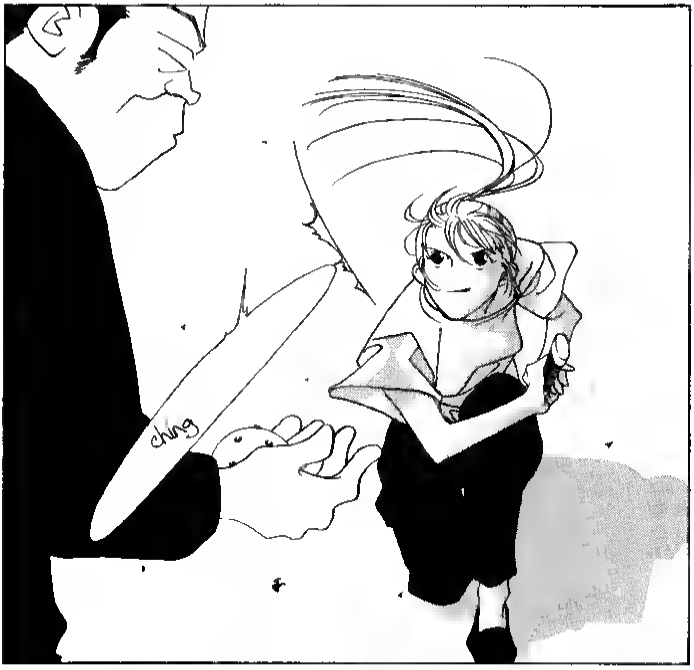
THOSE LOOK GOOD...

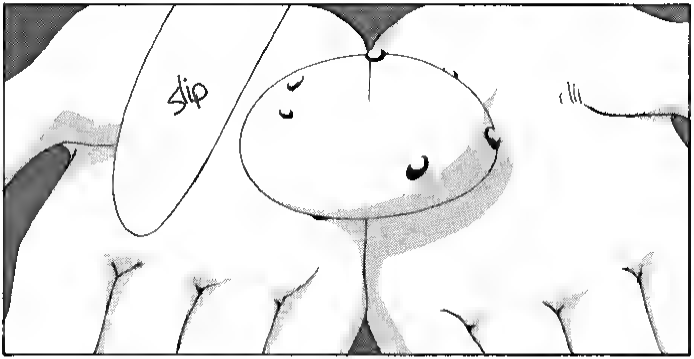

SRK

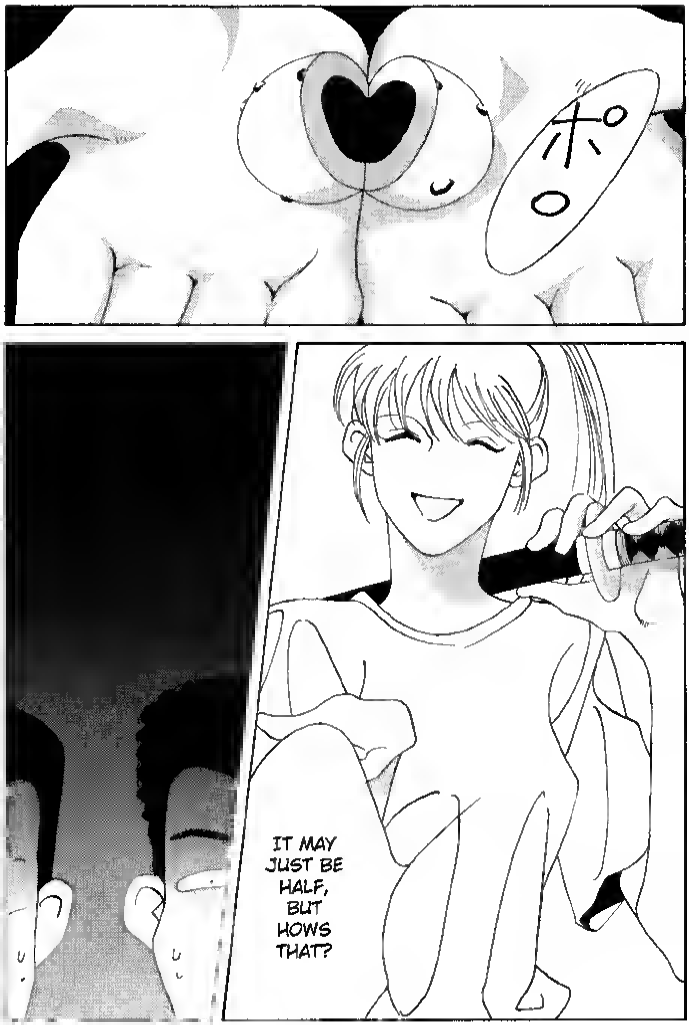
THANKS!
GAH...
THEY ARE! I MADE THEM MYSELF!
HERE, TAKE ONE.
WOW!
WOULD EITHER OF YOU LIKE TO HAVE ONE TOO?

だら
.....
た=
HA, LIKE A GROWN GUY WOULD EAT MAME DAIFUKU! RIGHT!?
T-THOUGH OF COURSE IF SOME-ONE'S JUST GOING TO GIVE IT TO US WE'RE NOT GOING TO TURN IT DOWN.
えぇ?
EH!?
..OH THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT.

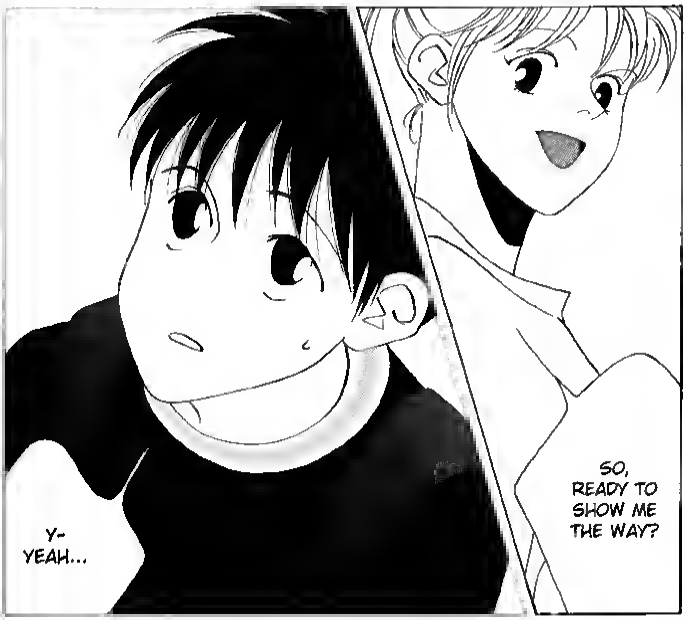
HEY, NOW. THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
WHA?
YOU'VE HAD WAY TOO MUCH SUGAR IN YOUR URINE LATELY, RIGHT?
SO JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
I'M SURE YOU'D BOTH LIKE TO EAT IT.
NOW DON'T MOVE.


ching

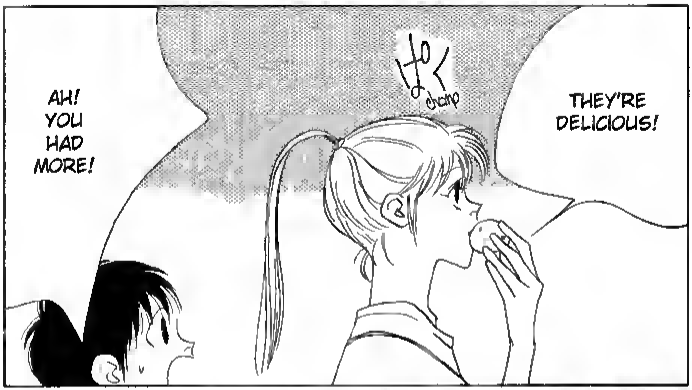

slip


IT MAY JUST BE HALF, BUT HOWS THAT?

I-IT'S GOOD. THANKS.
schuffle schuffle
munch
munch
munch


SO, READY TO SHOW ME THE WAY?
Y- YEAH...

I-ISN'T CARRYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT KIND OF DANGER-OUS?
HM?
UM...
THERE'S NOTHING DAN-GEROUS ABOUT IT!



Note: What Tama actually calls her is onee-chan. Literally it means 'big sister' but it's used by children to address young women. Just as 'big brother' can be used for young men.

WHO ELSE IS THERE HERE?
ARE YOU CALLING ME 'MISS'?

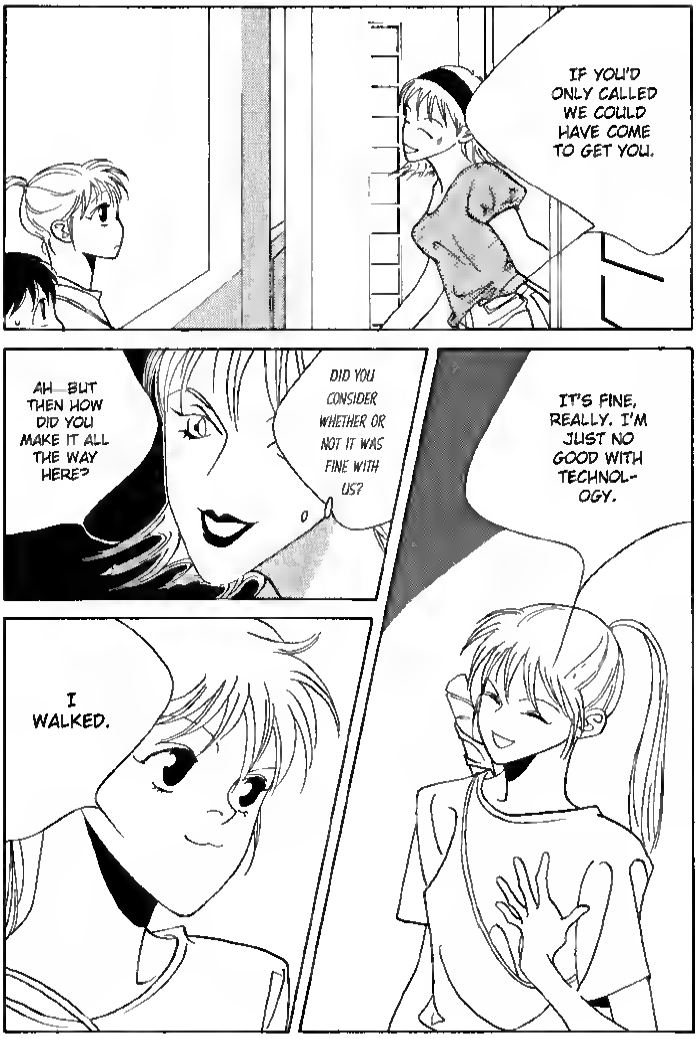
MISS?

Hahahaha!

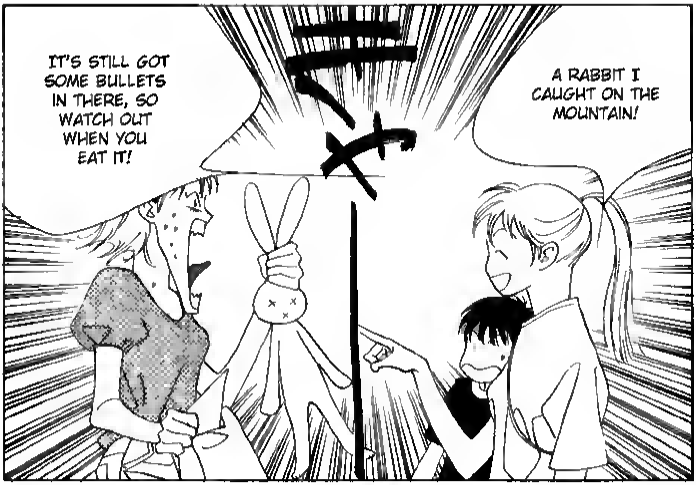
THAT KIND OF FLATTERY STILL ISN'T GOING TO GET YOU ANYMORE MAME DAIFUKU, YOU KNOW.
EH? SO IT'S MISTER?
AH. RIGHT, OK, I'M SORRY!

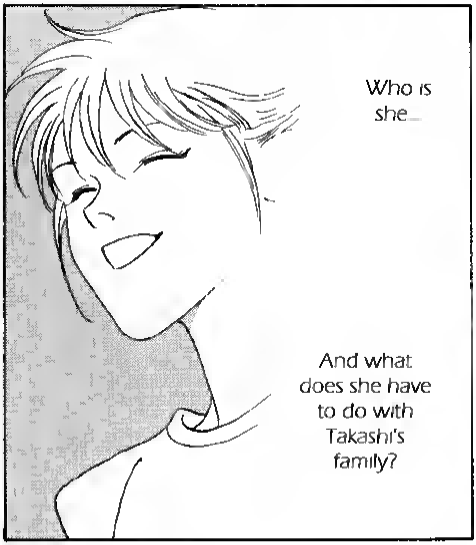
THANKS.
HERE IT IS.

SLAM
WELCOME!
WE...


IF YOU'D ONLY CALLED WE COULD HAVE COME TO GET YOU.
IT'S FINE, REALLY. I'M JUST NO GOOD WITH TECHNOL-OGY.
DID YOU CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS FINE WITH US?
AH—BUT THEN HOW DID YOU MAKE IT ALL THE WAY HERE?
I WALKED.

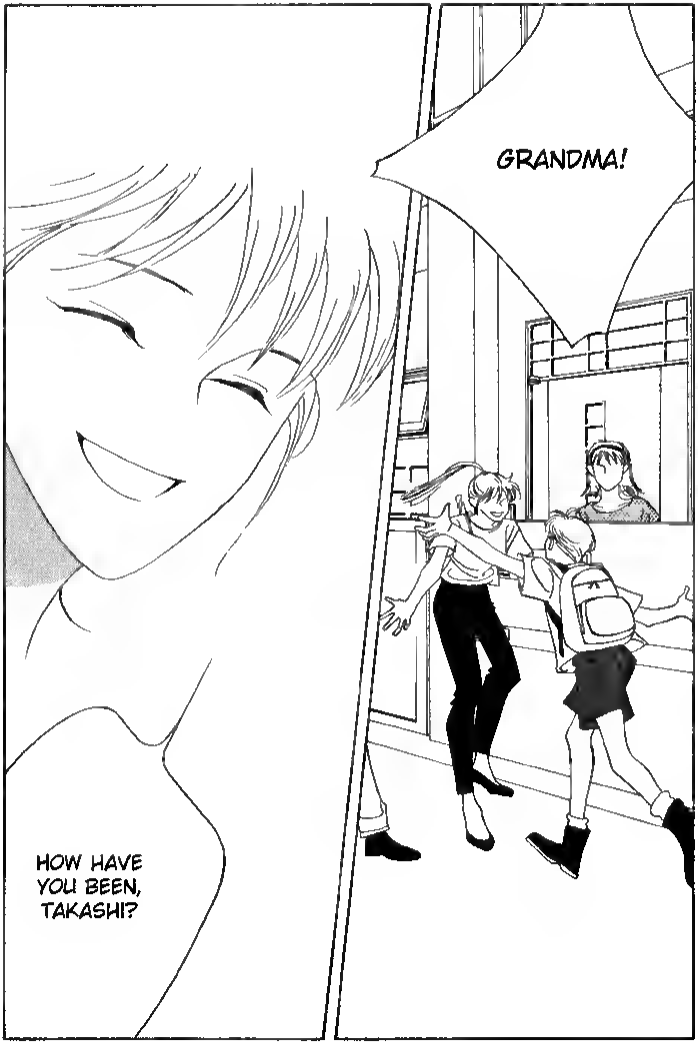
OH, IS IT? I DIDN'T REALLY NOTICE.
YOU WALKED...? BUT IT'S MORE THAN 600 MILES.
OH, WHAT'S THIS? IT'S..
?
I BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU!

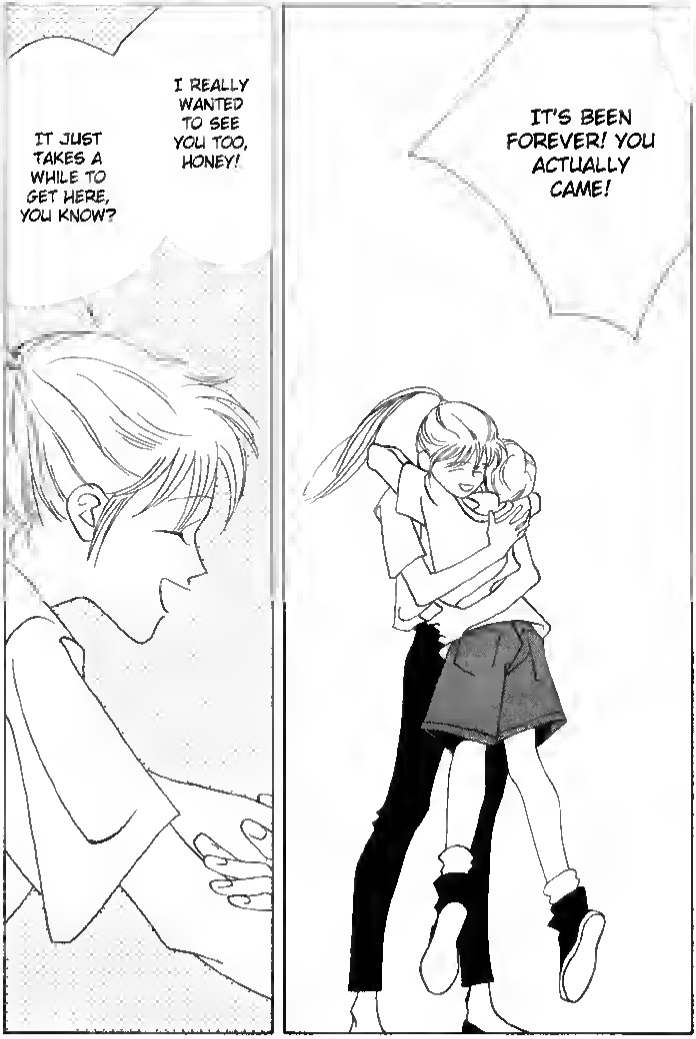

IT'S STILL GOT SOME BULLETS IN THERE, SO WATCH OUT WHEN YOU EAT IT!
A RABBIT I CAUGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN!

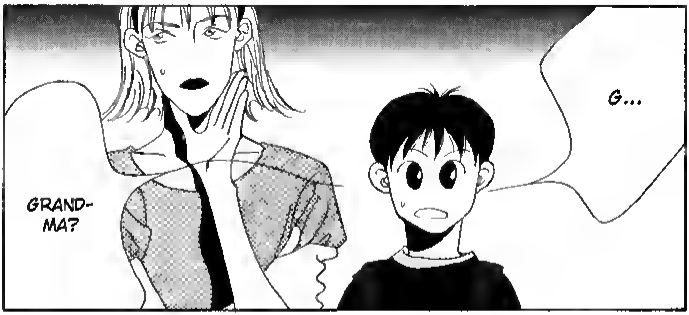

Who is she...
And what does she have to do with Takashi's family?

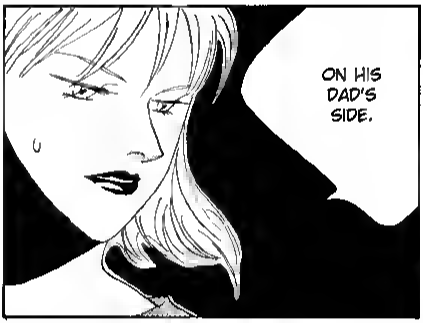
This lady...

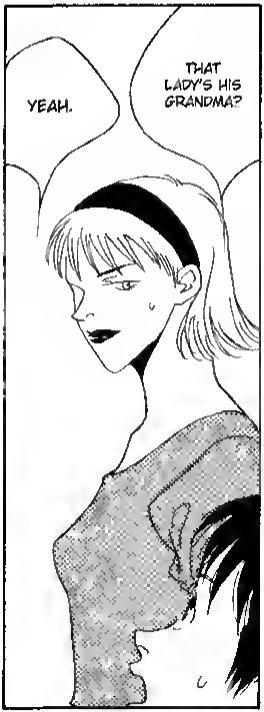
G...

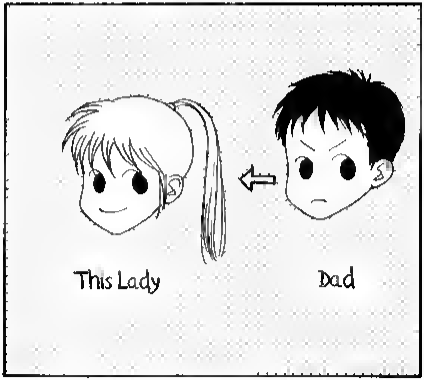

GRANDMA!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, TAKASHI?


IT'S BEEN FOREVER! YOU ACTUALLY CAME!
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU TOO, HONEY!
IT JUST TAKES A WHILE TO GET HERE, YOU KNOW?


G...
GRAND-MA?

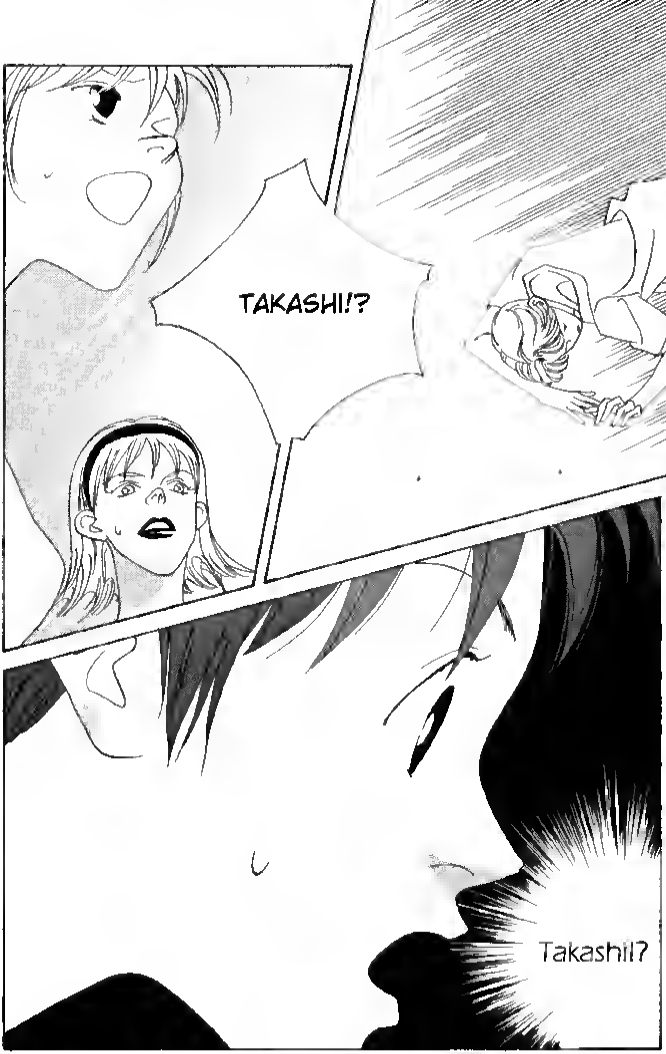

ON HIS DAD'S SIDE.


THAT LADY'S HIS GRANDMA?
YEAH.


This Lady
Dad

EH?
Looking abnormally young for their age must just run in the family
TAKASHI, YOU'RE BACK FROM SCHOOL AWFULLY EARLY, AREN'T YOU?
I MEAN, IT'S SAT-URDAY, BUT...
WELL YOU DIDN'T EVEN SHOW UP AND YOU'RE HANGING OUT HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN

Note: Japanese children used to have a half day of school on Saturday, though it is much less common in public schools in recent years.



SCENE·7——END

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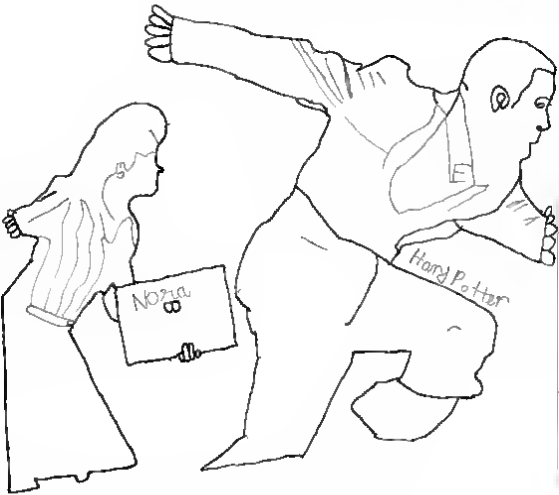

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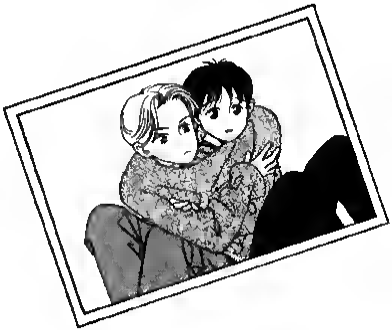
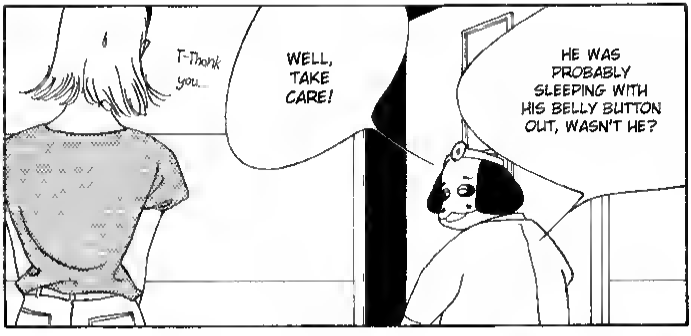
SCENE
8

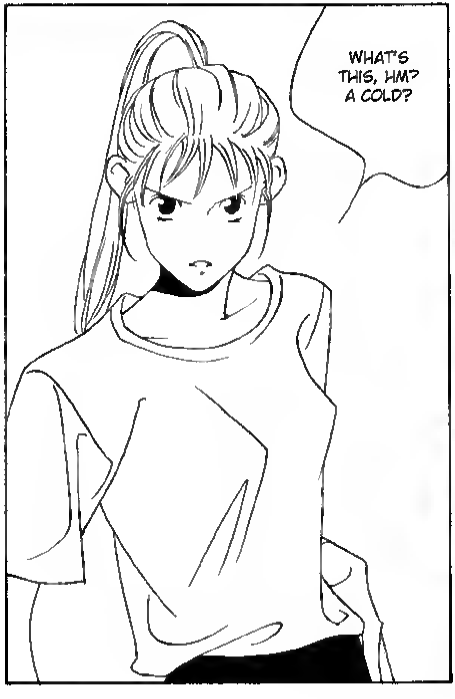
TAMIO
FOR YOU

TAKE ME WITH YOU
RUN AWAY AND BE FREE.
I'LL COME ALONG WITH YOU
AND YOU'LL JOIN ME.
BY HIROMI GO
Or maybe not

A...COLD?
YES. KEEP HIM WARM AND IN BED, AND HE SHOULD BE FINE IN NO TIME.
A COLD.



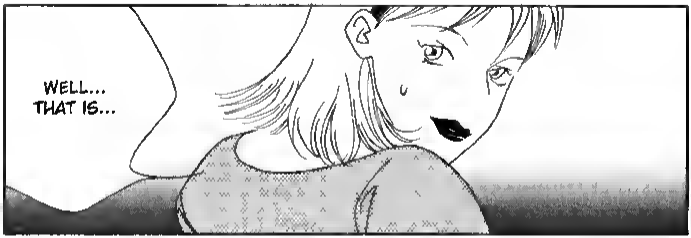

T-Thank you...
WELL, TAKE CARE!
HE WAS PROBABLY SLEEPING WITH HIS BELLY BUTTON OUT, WASN'T HE?

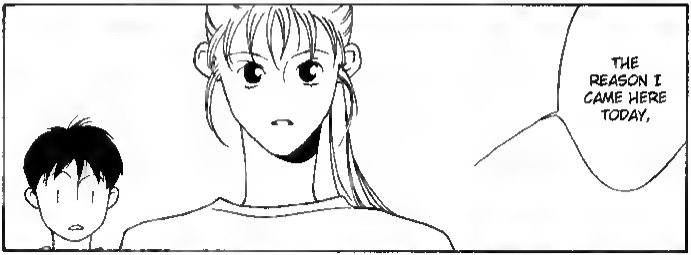

WHAT'S THIS, HM? A COLD?

SARAH-SAN?
びく

THAT'S WHY I WAS AGAINST TAKASHI LIVING IN THE CITY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
C-CITY...?

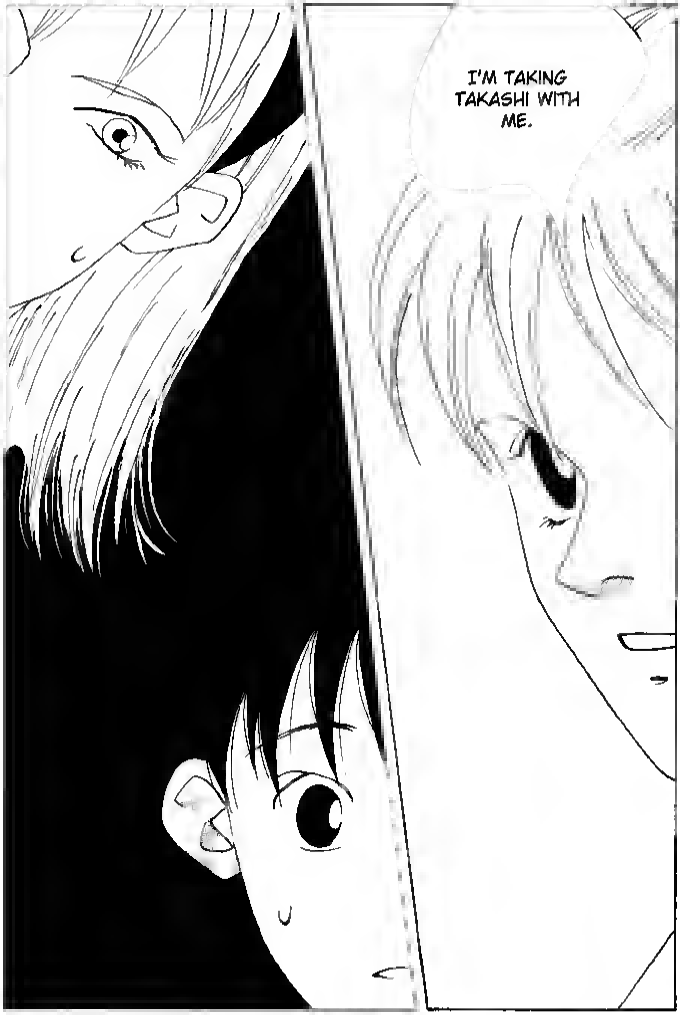
THAT'S RIGHT.
BY THE CITY... DO YOU MEAN HERE?
THAT'S WHY HE CATCHES COLDS AT THE DROP OF A HAT!
OF COURSE HIS BODY'S GOING TO KEEP GETTING WEAKER LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS WITH IT'S CARS AND ITS RUNNING WATER AND ELECTRICAL LIGHTS.
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, SARAH-SAN!


WELL... THAT IS...


THE REASON I CAME HERE TODAY,

WAS TO SEE IF TAKASHI WAS TRULY BEING WELL RAISED
OF COURSE, IF I FIND YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE, I INTEND TO CARE FOR HIM MYSELF.

A-AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?


I'M TAKING TAKASHI WITH ME.

At that moment, in Takeshi's still smooth, wrinkle-lacking mind, memories of his childhood days in the care of his grandmother began to surface.
カーン

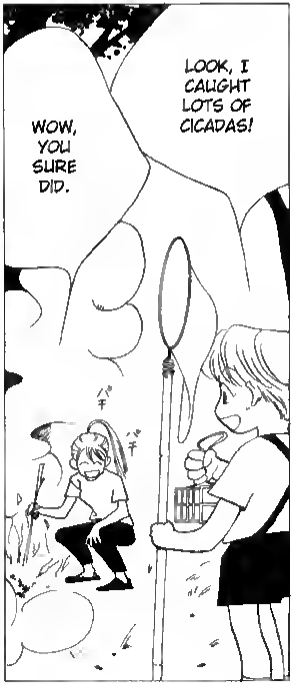
GRANDMA, I'M SCARED~!
IT'S OK! I'M GOING TO CATCH YOU SO YOU JUST GIVE A BIG JUMP!
WHA~? BUT IT'S SO HIGH! IT'S SCARY!
TAKASHI! JUST TRUST ME! TRUST GRANDMA!

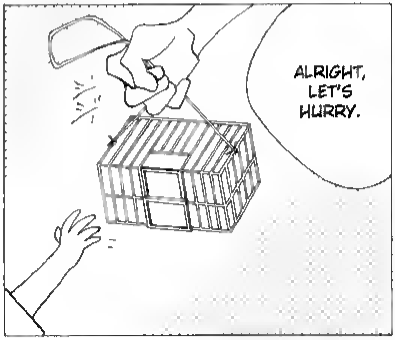
...OK! I CAN DO IT!

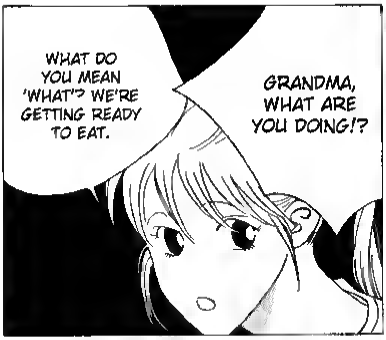
ドゴオン
SO YOU SEE, TAKASHI.
キャあ
TRUSTING PEOPLE TOO EASILY LEADS TO PAINFUL EXPERIENCES.
O-OH... O-OK... I UNDERSTAND NOW, GRANDMA.
SNIFF
SNIFF
Doesn't realize his grandma is the one to be wary of
HIC

GRANDMA~!

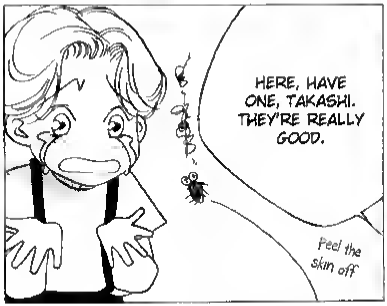
SUCH A TALENTED BOY.
Heehee

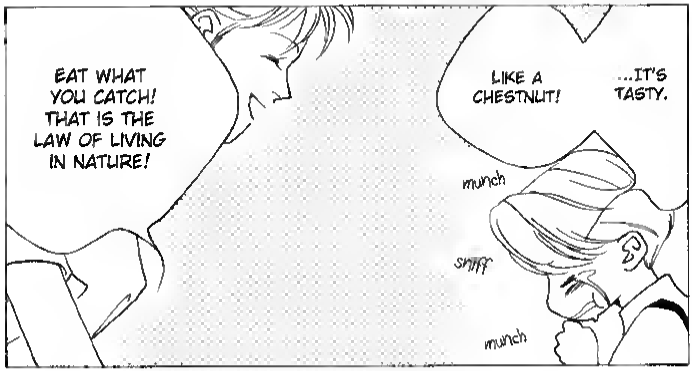

LOOK, I CAUGHT LOTS OF CICADAS!
WOW, YOU SURE DID.


ALRIGHT, LET'S HURRY.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'WHAT'? WE'RE GETTING READY TO EAT.
GRANDMA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

WA~!
ぼそっ


HERE, HAVE ONE, TAKASHI. THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
Peel the skin off


EAT WHAT YOU CATCH! THAT IS THE LAW OF LIVING IN NATURE!
LIKE A CHESTNUT!
...IT'S TASTY.
munch
sniff
munch

I don't hate grandma, but...
A city boy like me just can't take that way of life...
Ah My fever's getting worse
はははは
HAHAHAHA!
Waah!

tap
clack
ER.

I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME.
TAKA-SHI...!

I DIDN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD COME ALONG.
.. ALRIGHT, BUT YOU'RE WEARING PAJAMAS.
COME ON, WE'RE GOING TO STICK TOGETHER FOREVER

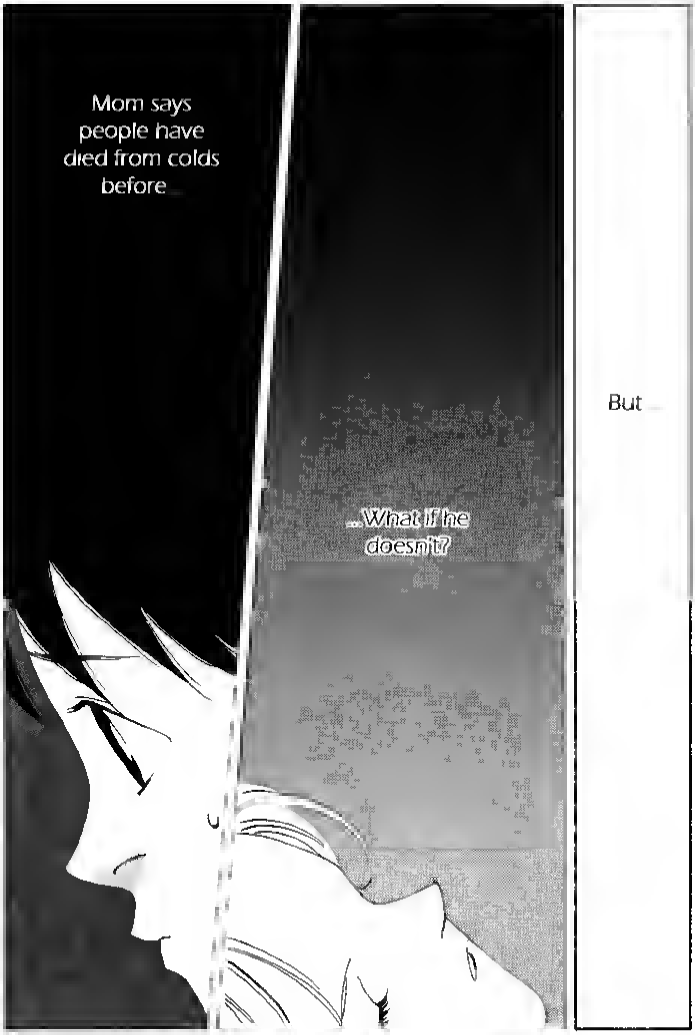
W-WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER, TAKASHI.
Hee
AH~! CRAP!
YOU'RE SUCH A DOPE. HERE, TAKE MINE.
..I'M SO TIRED.
HUH?
A-ARE YOU OK, TAKASHI?
I WONDER IF THERE ARE EVEN PLACES THAT'LL HIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS...

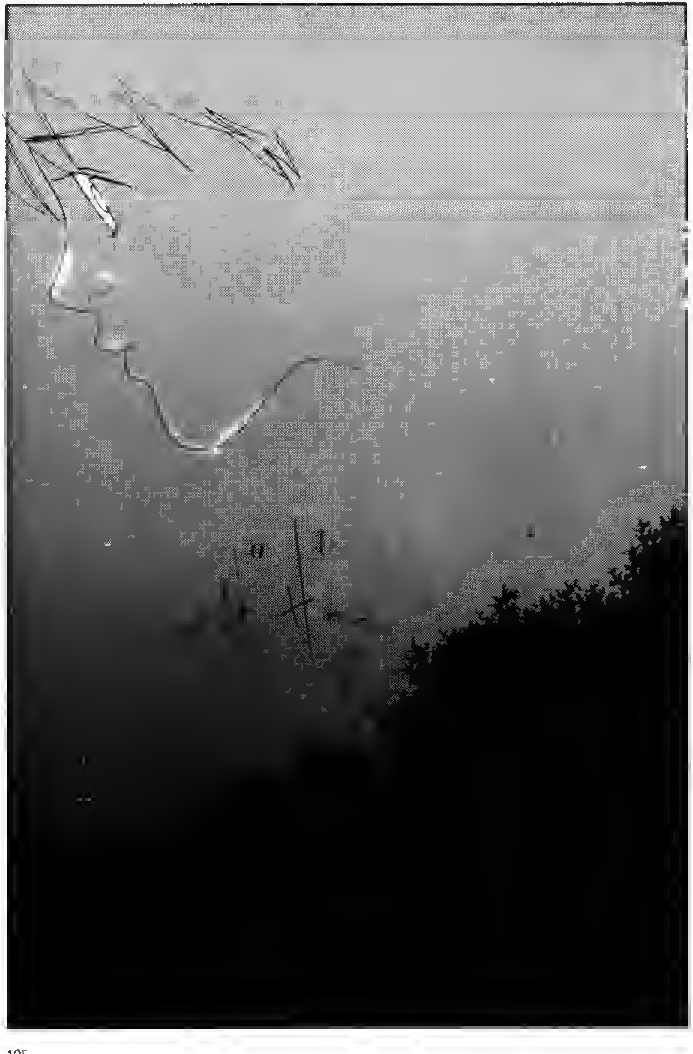
WHERE... DO WE EVEN... GO...?
...T-TAKASHI?
ARE YOU SLEEPING?
EEP!
AWOOOOO...

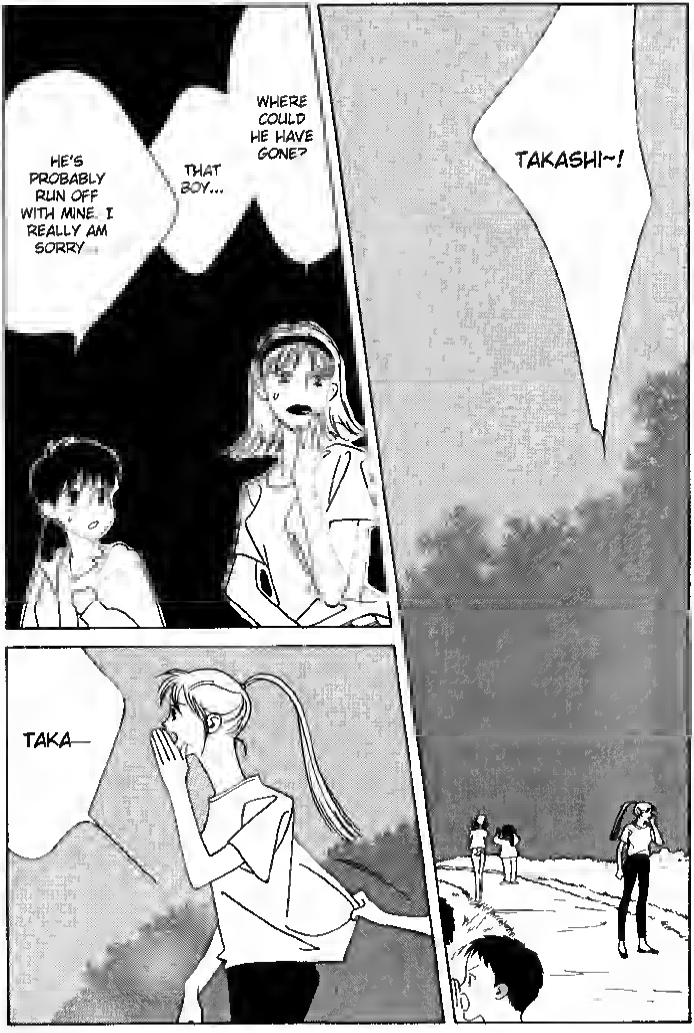
T-TAKASHI, WAKE UP!
I...I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD STAY HERE, TAKASHI!
WAS THAT A DOG?
HE'S REALLY HOT!
!

WHA... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I guess I'll just have to go home and call someone to help.
But if I do that, Takashi will

It's a cold...
Maybe if he just rests a little while like this, he'll get better...


Mom says people have died from colds before...
...What if he doesn't?
But...




TAKASHI~!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
THAT BOY...
HE'S PROBABLY RUN OFF WITH MINE. I REALLY AM SORRY...
TAKA—

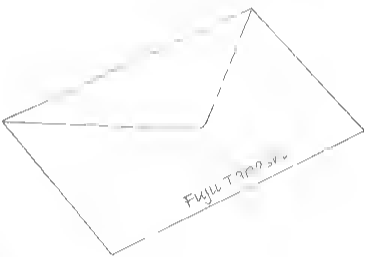
TAMIO-KUN!
GRANDMA FUJII, PLEASE, HELP...

Takashi got pneumonia, but he was better a week later...
That night, everyone was very angry with me.

And then he left with his grandma.

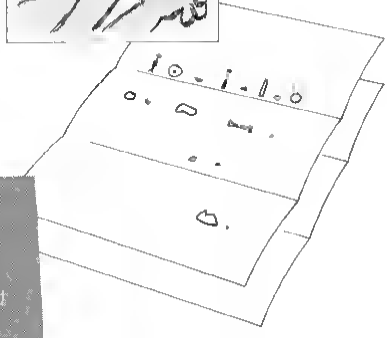
I thought I'd try sending him a letter.
But when I asked Takashi's mom for the address
She said that the plan it was house was deep in the mountains and it seemed like mail couldn't reach it.

But one day,



I got a letter from Takashi.

Inside was a picture of a feral-looking Takashi and a letter whose contents I couldn't really understand.



By the time I saw Takashi again, I would already be in middle school.

SCENE·8——END

The young boys Takashi and Tamio go to Hong Kong for their first trip abroad

They were beckoned by the food

Let's go!

ホンコン イン ザ ボーイズ

HONG KONG in THE BOYS

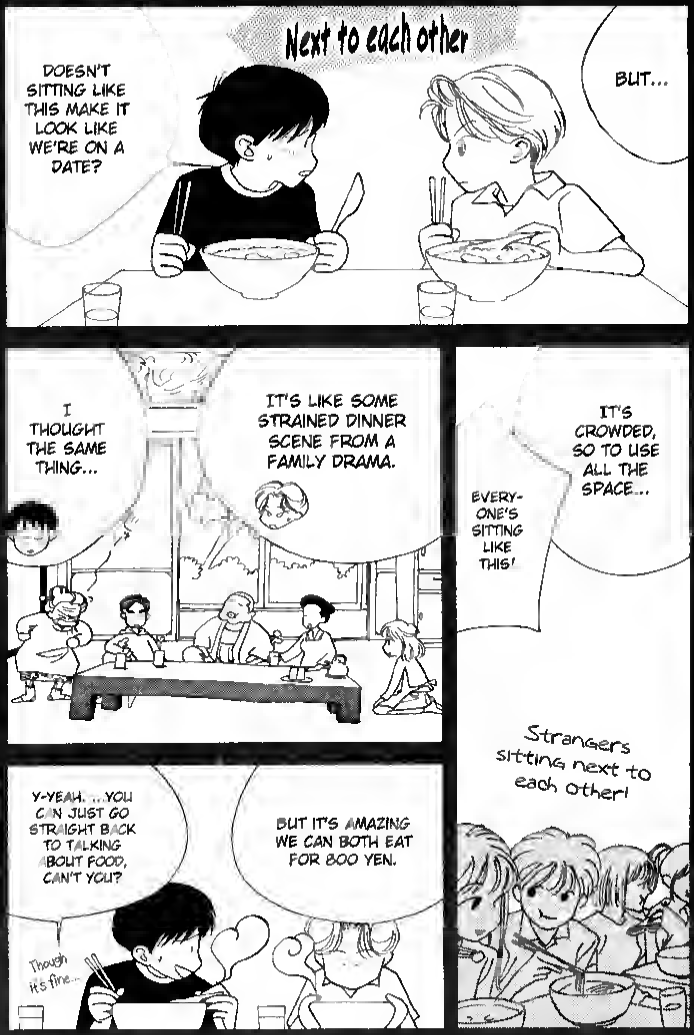
THAT WAS KIND OF NERVE WRECKING. HUH? EVEN IF THE IMMIGRATION GUY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
AH, MAN! WE'RE FINALLY AT THE HOTEL!
STUPID, IT'S PROBABLY THE PORTER.
UWA! WHO'S THAT!? A BURGLAR!?
Hello?
knock knock
THEY'RE PROBABLY USED TO ALL THE SIGHTSEERS
THE GUIDE SAID IT'S FINE TO JUST GIVE THEM 100 YEN COINS.
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE STILL HAVEN'T EXCHANGED OUR MONEY FOR TIPS.
HE'S HERE WITH THE LUGGAGE.

Note: 100 yen is roughly a dollar

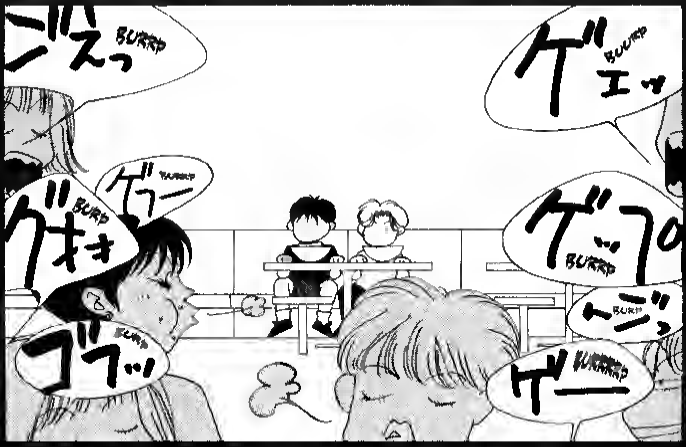
Oh! Thank you!
Why's he acting like such a polite Japanese boy?
S-Sankyu pleezu.
bow
bow
KADUMP
KADUMP
A THOU-SAND YEN!?
¥
YEN
Thousand yen!
ニヤッ
THAT KINDA STARTLED ME I THOUGHT HE WANTED A THOUSAND YEN TIP
ISN'T HE SAYING HE'LL EXCHANGE YOUR THOUSAND YEN BILLS FOR US?
Thousand yen! Thousand yen! Exchange!

THIS IS THE SHELTON HOTEL, RIGHT?
YEAH.
Thank you!
WELL... THIS IS HONG KONG, AFTER ALL...
YOU'D NEVER SEE THAT IN JAPAN
Watches!
S-SURE. BUT I CAN'T REALLY SPEAK ENGLISH—
WE COULD GO SOMEWHERE MORE SPENDY BUT WE COULD ALSO JUST TRY ONE OF THE PLACES AROUND HERE WHERE THEY SERVE MAGGOTS!
ヒミズ
Alright!
Now, to FOOD!

To be born on both sides!
R-RIGHT ...
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! I'M THE HALF HERE!
BUT SHE ASKED IN JAPANESE...
And that's some weird English.
Wantonmen and almond jelly order two, pureeza!
SO WHAT'LL IT BE?
THE WAITRESS SAT US HERE SO WE DID, BUT...
YEAH?
HEY.
Y-YEAH..
WOW, THERE'S LOTS OF HUGE SHRIMP IN IT! BUT IT'S SO CHEAP!


Next to each other
DOESN'T SITTING LIKE THIS MAKE IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE ON A DATE?
BUT...
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING...
IT'S LIKE SOME STRAINED DINNER SCENE FROM A FAMILY DRAMA.
EVERY-ONE'S SITTING LIKE THIS!
IT'S CROWDED, SO TO USE ALL THE SPACE...
Strangers sitting next to each other!
Y-YEAH. ...YOU CAN JUST GO STRAIGHT BACK TO TALKING ABOUT FOOD, CAN'T YOU?
BUT IT'S AMAZING WE CAN BOTH EAT FOR 800 YEN.
Though it's fine...

HM?
thin noodles
H-HEY. LOOK AT THAT.
TAKASHI,
IT'S NOT JUST HER. EVERYONE HERE IS EATING A LOT.
THAT GIRL SURE IS EATING A LOT
All for her
...THAT'S TRUE.
BUUUURP.
BUT THEY'RE ALL SO SKINNY WHERE DOES IT ALL GO?



HONG KONG in THE BOYS——END

THE FOOLISH STEWARDESS

Konami
Shouko

TAKING OFF IS SO LONG AND TEDIOUS, THOUGH, AND I WISH THEY COULD GET ON WITH IT.
Still?
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED ROLLER COASTERS, SO IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I'D LIKE LANDINGS.
It's so dull I fall asleep before we're off the ground
SO THE THRILL IS NICE, BUT...
IT'S SCARY, BUT IF WE ALL GO TOGETHER THAT'S BETTER, RIGHT...?
BUT THE REALLY THE GOOD THING ABOUT PLANES IS THE DECENT LIKELIHOOD OF A QUICK DEATH IF YOU CRASH.
TOSSING OUT THE THINGS I DON'T WANT MY FAMILY TO SEE IF I DIE
It'd be sad to dump a memento like this...
THOUGH I DON'T DO IT WHEN I'M STAYING IN THE COUNTRY, IF I'M GOING OVERSEAS, I MAKE SURE TO TIDY UP MY THINGS BEFORE I GO.
Playgirl

FIRST CLASS IS OUT OF MY LEAGUE, BUT SOMETIMES I RIDE IN BUSINESS FIRST AND BUSINESS CLASS BOARD BEFORE ECONOMY BUT SOMETIMES PEOPLE IN ECONOMY WHO DON'T KNOW THAT LINE UP AND GET STOPPED BY THE STEWARDESS
The seats are so big and luxurious...
PLANES HAVE NORMAL SEATS, NICER SEATS, AND WAY NICER SEATS THEY CALL ECONOMY, BUSINESS CLASS, AND FIRST CLASS.
So how do they price them?
From Osaka to Honolulu business is about 10 thousand yen higher than economy. First class 320 thousand though if you can find cheaper tickets it might just be double.
Are you joking!?
ONCE, THE STEWARDESS MISTOOK ME FOR AN ECONOMY RIDER AND STOPPED ME!
EXCUSE ME? Those in economy should
Business
...BUT TO STOP A SPONSOR OF ALL PEOPLE... I DON'T THINK I'LL BE RIDING JAL AGAIN.
むーん...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TRYING TO LOOK RICH OR ANYTHING, SO IT'S OK, BUT...

The Foolish Stewardess——END

［初出］
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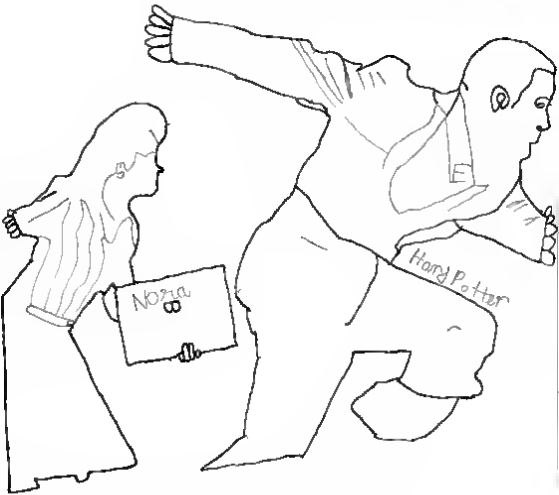

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